

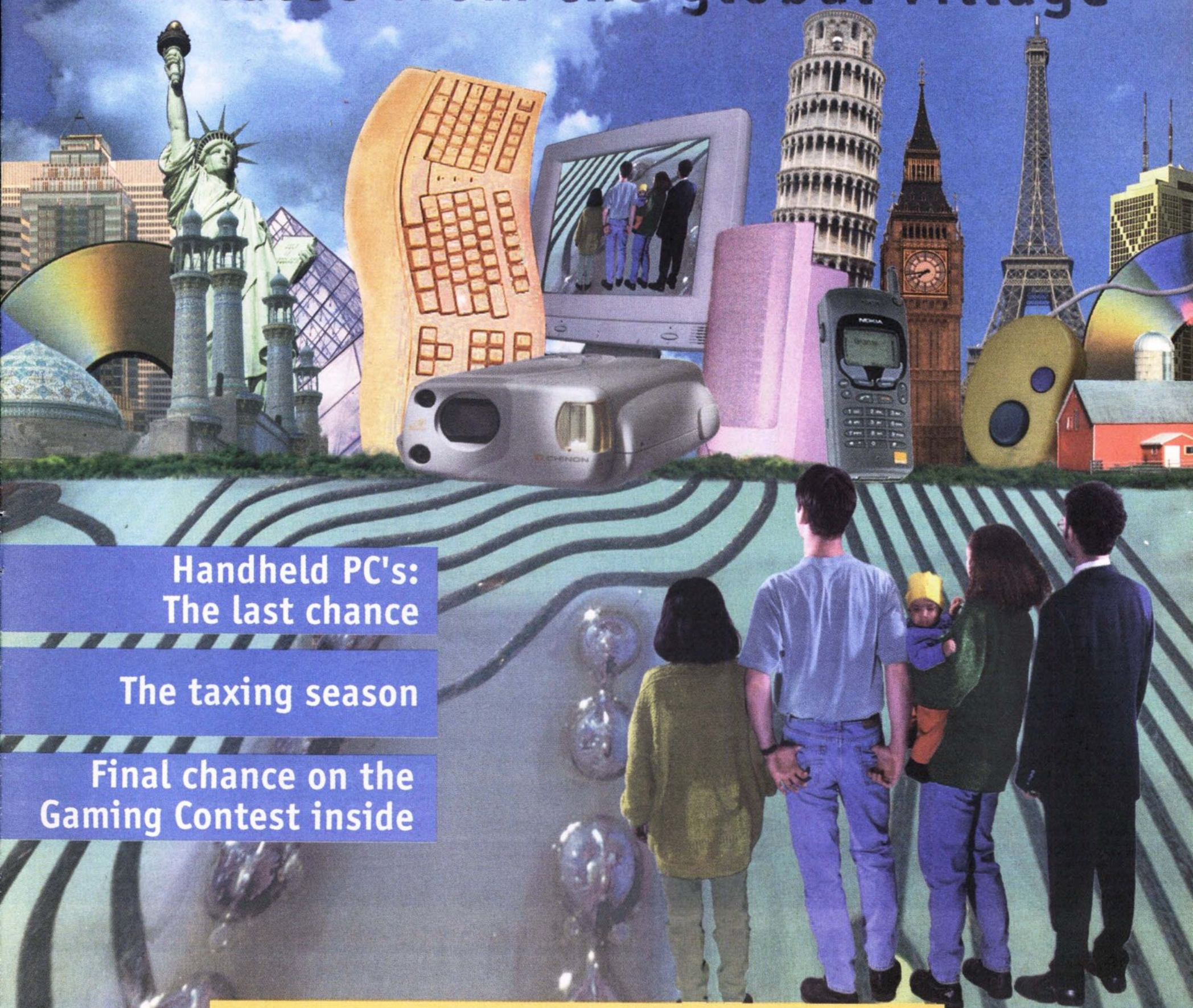
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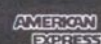
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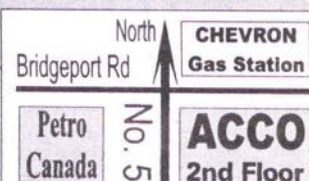
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# Notes from all over

l e t t e r f r o m t h e e d i t o r

**T**his is my tech tale from the global village. I wonder: if we are indeed living in a global village, what do my "neighbours" think. I send informal surveys to England, South Africa, Latvia, and Egypt. I reach out, but not by "traditional" means. There's not enough time for that (a typical global-village phenomenon). I write: "Everybody speaks about the global village. Submarine cables are wiring together the world, you can consume Big Macs in Sydney and Tel Aviv, Africans watch *Dallas* on TV, e-mail allows you to trek in Nepal and stay in touch with loved ones in Anchorage. But is the global village really global? Are the people in your part of the world connected? Do geography, gender, age, race, and standard of living play a role? Will computers and modems become as ubiquitous as televisions and cars?"

## No escape

"Six degrees of separation," replies a friend who does business in half a dozen countries from an office in Quebec. "The Internet is sort of like that. A router knows some router that knows some router that knows the person you want to e-barass. We are connected like never before."

Communication via the Internet is *numero uno*. Notes to friends and family, business correspondence: it makes anyone anywhere feel closer to home.

"The Internet has greatly increased my quality of life in Russia. I'm one of those people who loves libraries and other similar info-gathering amenities available to the average North American... Now that I'm online, I once again feel connected and am able to access more information than I ever dreamed possible."

In many countries connectivity is still an incredibly expensive and difficult process—but that's changing—with increasing rapidity.

"When I arrived in Pamplona (Spain) in 1991, there were few (if any) persons who had even heard of e-mail, needless to say the Internet... Using my computer and Internet skills I was able to secure a part-time position at the university's information technology centre and thus able to find out what was going on in Canada." By 1996, *correo electronico* (e-mail) was virtually everywhere.

## Who's who

But who are the people frantically clicking away at the keyboards?

"There are many people in Latvia that don't know anything about computers. But it's getting

better as practically all young people are familiar with computers. I believe one's age, standard of living, occupation, and geography have a really important role to play."

Present the same question to South Africa and you're rapped on the knuckles.

"The current government and citizens want to wipe out any wrongs from the past. Computers are being donated to schools in previously disadvantaged areas—they're getting their own Internet bookups."

However, the looming population—a good portion uneducated and unemployed—still have no idea what the information superhighway is. Shacks often have no electricity, which makes the computer scenario even more remote. Plus, how could one even pay for a computer?

The void between those for whom the wired world is "amazing" and those for whom it means getting power for lightbulbs, is still there. Witness Egypt.

"I'm in the land of the Pharaohs, connecting to the past and surfing the Web on the same day. I can take my laptop to South Sinai, retrieve my e-mail in the morning and dive with the dolphins in the afternoon."

But that's on a good day... Sometimes reaching my server in Cairo is like trying to call the moon. Within Cairo, the server may now have more lines, but the phone network isn't coping with the traffic. That's when you realize how dependent you are on this new technology and how vulnerable it is.

All around you, especially outside Cairo, people are still living the same way they did hundreds of years ago. The technology is here, but it will probably never reach them. Are we moving forward? Yes and no. Part of society is leaping forward, yet a large part of the population is actually going backwards. Are we getting more connected... or less?

If and when the information superhighway criss-crosses continents and connects brains, will it erase borders? Unlikely, say some. "No matter how the Internet connects us, we'll never be able to connect the views of countries like Saudi Arabia with our own racist views towards different people and customs. We're still a very ethnocentric culture and not very tolerant of differences."

Televisions and cars are ubiquitous. If computers are altering lives as dramatically as they say, is there any reason to think that, in the future, we won't see PCs and modems everywhere?

The world is being wired as we sleep. This is the Oz of the 1990s—but we'll probably never click our heels and go home again. Why would we?

## Let the games begin

On another note, with this issue we launch our new Games section. We welcome your ideas and inspiration for this new addition to *Toronto Computes!*

Enjoy the issue!

Māra Gulens

Editor-in-chief

editor@tcpon.com ♦



## Your letters please

Letters on issues raised in the paper or general computer topics are welcome. Please be brief. We regret that we are unable to look up stories from past issues, suggest products, or solve all your computer problems. Only those with names and e-mail or snail-mail addresses will be published. Letters may be edited for space or content.



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## ZIP on the outside okay?

I just read the online version of some articles in the current issue and must take exception to one point. In an article, one of our writers says that the Iomega ZIP drive software will install itself ahead of a CD-ROM, displacing it from its usual drive letter. Now, this may occur with internal ZIPs, but I know it does *not* do this if one installs an external ZIP drive (SCSI) to an internal SCSI adapter card.

I have easily installed the latter as the last drive letter in a DX4/100 running DOS 6.22 and Win 3.1. This was part of my work to deinstall Windows 95, having no choice but to reformat both hard drives to blank and reinstall Win 3.1 for a client.

I have now removed Win95 from three computers for clients! Is this becoming a common activity by techies to your knowledge? My personal interest now is multiple-boot systems that may include Linux and OS/2 as options at start up. In this area, Microsoft seems to be the most *inflexible!*

Anthony Eriksson, via the Internet

## Creating video-picking blues?

In future, can you limit reviews of software to those items available in Canada? It could save your readers the frustration I just experienced.

Your article ("Beat the Video Picking Blues," February 1997) reviews Creative Multimedia's *Blockbuster Entertainment Guide to Movies & Video*. Having an inter-

est in this product, and particularly the *Blockbuster Music Guide* bundled with it, I visited the Website mentioned. It indicated the products could not be ordered or shipped to "foreign" countries.

So I tried the Toll-Free number, indicated I was from Canada, and asked if the product were available here. I got the phone equivalent of a blank stare, but was eventually sent first to their shipping department, then to their customer-service department. That turned out to be a toll-free line for the magazine *Consumer Reports!*

Finally, they referred me to the company's head office. I was given the Vancouver number of the company's Canadian representative and the distribution company.

The distributor, Beamscope, sent me to consumer service, who in succession informed me that a) they had not heard of the product, b) the *Blockbuster Music Guide* did not exist (it does), c) the product is available at Blockbuster Video (it is not), and d) the product is not available in Canada and may not be for six months!

For dated material, such as movie, video, or CD reviews, this a practical guarantee of obsolescence. How do you manage to get copies to review?

Pat Kelly, via the Internet

According to *Blockbuster Canada's head office*, The *Blockbuster Entertainment Guide to Movies & Video* will be available in Canada in six to eight weeks.

## Cookie monster?

If Myles has got his knickers in a knot about cookies, he should give CookieMaster a try. It works in the background, gathering all the cookies offered and lets you delete the ones you don't want whenever you want. Best of all, it is free and available at the ZDnet site (<http://www.zdnet.com/>). If you're not in competition with those great folks Stateside, maybe you could tell your readers about it!

Keep up the good work.

Brian Mahoney

## See Dick compute?

I just read an article by Steve Bain that really "got through" to me that this is a new era.

He described the new DreamWriter product line from the NTS company in BC and it seems to me that Steve was describing the modern counterpart to the Dick and Jane Primer. The notebook is literally the size of an 8 x 11-inch binder. It seems to me that the very reasonable \$300-500 current price will come down with competition and with the later stages of the product life cycle.

Given that half of grades one to nine now have classrooms connected to the Internet and that this figure will be 100 per cent within two years, I have to ask if products like the DreamWriter aren't the Primers that all students in Canada will soon carry from grade one on? What do

continued on page 9





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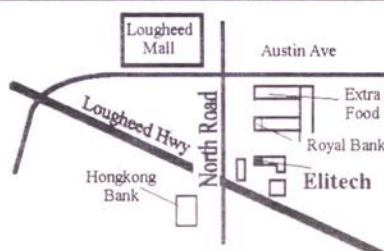
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# Climbing Everest by Web



## The BC Files

Steve Bain

If you're feeling a little disenchanted with the World Wide Web these days, this may lift your spirits. Jamie Clarke will be climbing Mount Everest next month with potentially several thousand Canadian students sharing in his adventure—all made possible by the latest Web technology.

Clarke, who has 20 years of climbing experience behind him, will be part of a team scaling the world's tallest mountain. He will be uploading his experience to the Web as he goes on what has been dubbed "Adventure Everest."

The project is being engineered by Vancouver educational-software developers VR Didatech and CCT Software Plus, with multimedia talent borrowed from the Vancouver Film School. Joint funding will come from the BC Ministry of Education, Colliers International, Lotus Development Corporation, and participants of the program.

### Next best thing?

The thrust of the effort is for teachers and students to share a learning experience together.

er. "There's a very strong theme for students in this 'Adventure Everest' project," says Blake Cowan, vice president of sales and marketing at CCT Software. "It teaches students goal setting, perseverance, and how to deal with setbacks. Themes like this are very compelling for young students."

Pre-climb reports began two months ago and will continue until April 14, while the climbers head toward a 17,000-foot-level base camp. From there, daily progress will be provided directly from Everest until the end of the trip in May.

The cost for participating schools will be roughly \$100 for the duration of the program, including registration and the purchase of specialized software. Interaction will be virtually instantaneous through the use of satellite links. Students who attend participating schools will have the opportunity to participate in IRC chat sessions directly with the climbers over the Web, which will be moderated by classroom teachers and educators participating in the climb.

For more information about the event, call VR Didatech at (604) 299-4435 or visit the Adventure Everest site at <http://www.vrsystems.com/everest/index.html>.

### Pivotal Software takes off

If you're prone to scribbling names, numbers, and business details onto scraps of paper, only to have them laundered with your favorite business shirt, then here's a tip. A new program

called *Pivotal Relationship* promises to organize all your business dealings.

After receiving a cash infusion from investors of more than \$7 million, North Vancouver-based Pivotal Software is going for the gold after seeing considerable interest in their latest customer-interaction software. Last month, the company announced a hiring blitz of 25 marketing, sales, software-development, tech-support and administrative personnel. Not bad for a company that has already doubled its staff within the last nine months.

*Pivotal Relationship* is designed to help take the pain out of tracking, recording, and organizing the endless details that exist in daily business. It offers marketing features that help find, win, understand and retain customers, and it consolidates all customer information into one system, allowing sales, marketing, and customer-service professionals to target prospects, close sales, fill orders, and solve customer problems. Their product is already experiencing significant market interest in Canada, Europe, the United States, and Japan, and was recently named one of the top 15 sales and marketing automation products in the world.

Polish your résumé. BC is growing into a software-development hotbed, and as it does, high-tech companies continue to scramble for qualified workers. "Our business has been growing at an incredible rate," says Norm Francis, Pivotal's president. "The big challenge we face

now is finding skilled professionals with high-tech industry experience to help drive our success in the US and in International markets."

Pivotal Software is a privately held company. For more information, see their Web site at <http://www.pivotal.com/> or call (604) 988-9982.

### Hobknob with the gurus

Next month, Netscape's director of technology, Martin Haeberli, will give a keynote address to the fourth annual Software Practitioners Conference in Vancouver, being held March 24-25 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel. For roughly \$650, attendees will be treated to insights from several experts in the software development industry, as well.

Talks will also be given by speakers from the technology arms of Microsoft and Apple Computer and from local BC firms such as SoftQuad, MacDonald Dettwiler, OpenText, and Prologix. Conference topics are scheduled to focus on Internet security, protocol, markup languages, and Java issues with regards to application development for the World Wide Web.

For more information or to register, contact the Software Productivity Center at (604) 662-8181 or visit their Web site at <http://www.spc.ca/>

Steve Bain is a *Computer Player/Canada Computes* western correspondent. Send news, tips, questions, or comments to [Steve@helix.net](mailto:Steve@helix.net) ♦

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This month's cover photograph was shot by John Narvali and features Sarmistha Roy, Brian McEachern, Yvette and Uma Doucette, and Tim Bingham-Wallis. It was designed & retouched in Photoshop 3.0, by Jennifer Hanlon Scott. Composition & type were created in Adobe Illustrator 6.0.

#### Computer Player!

(Canada Computes! BC edition) is published monthly by Canada Computer Paper Inc.

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 Computer Player!  
 425 Carrall Street, Suite 503  
 Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

Canadian Publication Mail Sales  
 Product Agreement #170 437

Printed in Canada

ISSN 1188-9462

**Computer Player!** is distributed free through hundreds of stores & street boxes around the Greater Vancouver area.

The publisher reserves the right to refuse sexist, racist, or otherwise offensive advertising. The publisher also reserves the right to be the final judge of what is appropriate.

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## Letters ...

continued from page 6

the teachers on the list think? By the way, I don't have a vested interest in this or any other computer company. I have taught college in Alberta and BC and I am now contemplating, even marvelling, at this new era in telecommunications.

Sincerely, FWP

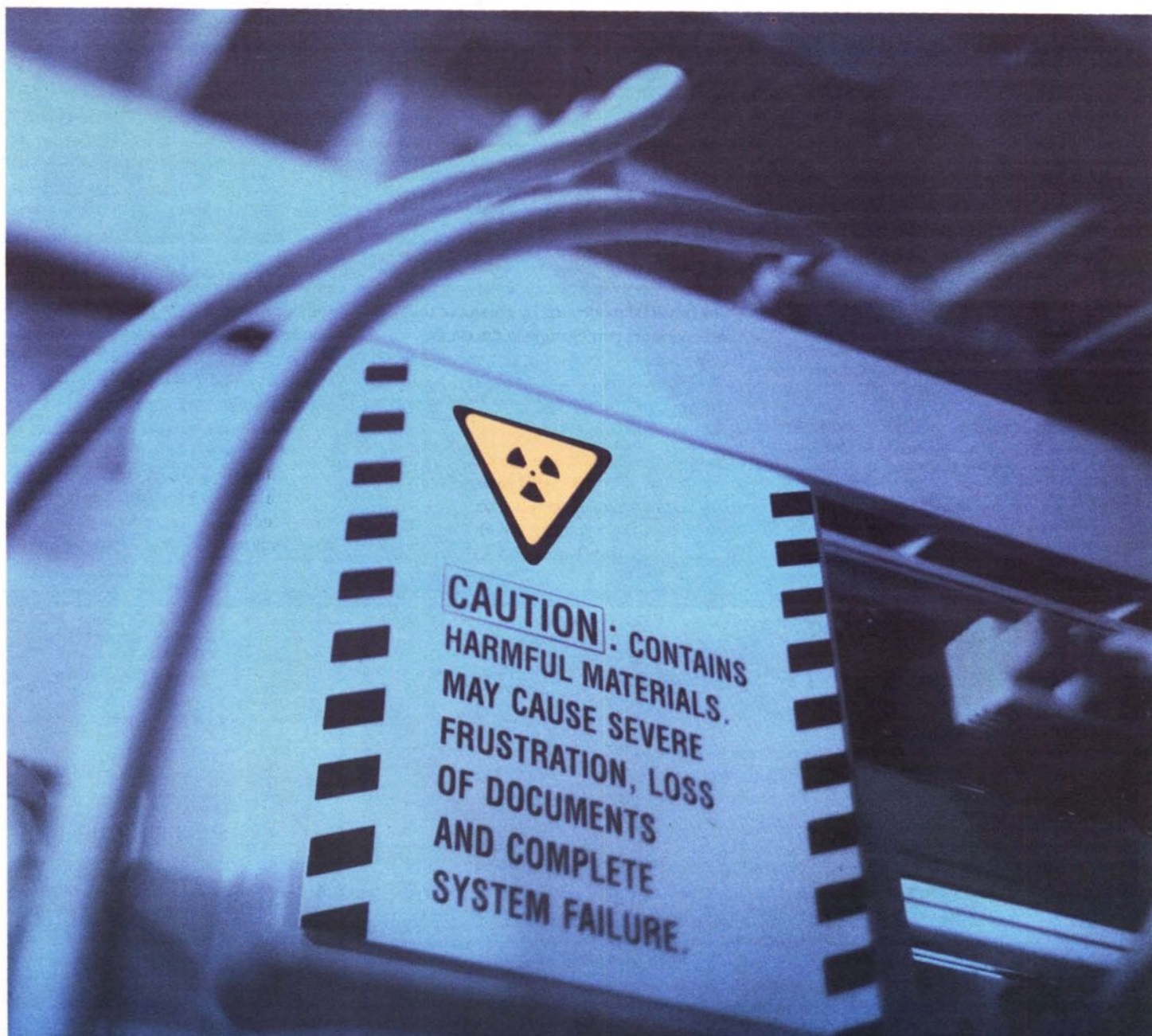
## New Utilities bugs many

Re: Alan Zisman's software column about Win95 utilities (February 1997).

I'm not sure if he actually used *Norton Utilities* version 2, but those of us that loved version 1 have found 2's new bells and whistles to be riddled with bugs. So far, Symantec's advice is a load of workarounds and "yes, we're working on that."

As someone who's relied on *NU* for a long time, I find their lack of proper design scary, as I don't know another utility package to which I can turn. As with a lot of people I've talked to, I'm leaving my copy on the shelf for a few months until the bugs are fixed. And by the way, it costs \$100, not \$150.

Bob Robertson, via the Internet ♦



## What software piracy costs the consumer. Number three in a series.

Pirated software comes in many forms. Which is why it pays to protect yourself. Learn how to identify pirated software and understand its implications, and whatever you do, don't buy it.

Pirated software is more likely to contain viruses or crash your computer. To make matters worse, if it fails - and it may - you're not entitled to receive any support from the software manufacturer.

How do you know when you've received pirated software? Always look for an end user license agreement from the software manufacturer. If this is not present, chances are the software is pirated.

Other unauthorized software is not as easily identifiable. For instance, software sold in plastic CD cases labeled "To be sold only with hardware" should not be sold alone. No matter what anyone tells you, this type of software is highly susceptible to being counterfeited. The easiest way to protect yourself is to always deal with a reputable software retailer - one who is aware of the problem of piracy and can ensure you receive a legitimate product.

**FIRST AID TREATMENT:** Protect yourself. Look for the CAAST (Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft) logo at your retailer. Educate yourself. Pick up a CAAST brochure at participating stores. And should you have questions, suspect someone may be committing software piracy or suspect you've received pirated software, contact CAAST at 1-800-263-9700.





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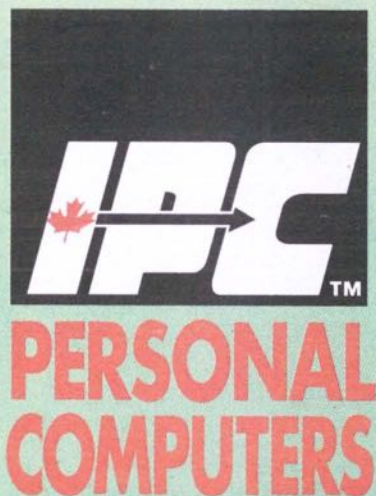
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# Information and privacy:

## A question of balance

• • By JUNE CAMPBELL • •

How can we strike a balance between the public's "right to know" and your personal right to privacy?

According to Darrel Evans, executive director and founder of BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (BC FIPA), that question is foremost in the minds of a good many British Columbians as the BC government considers revisions to the existing Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

BC FIPA was incorporated as a non-profit society in January 1991, largely due to the lobbying efforts of Evans and a dedicated group of like-minded supporters. FIPA's mandate is to advance the principles of freedom of information and privacy protection in British Columbia. The little society was the first of its kind in Canada, but has since helped launch a sister organization, FIPA Alberta, in 1993.

BC FIPA views its role as that of a watchdog and public advocate. Following "a major law-reform campaign in British Columbia," the society was instrumental in achieving the enactment of the BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which has since received international recognition as the best act of its type in North America.

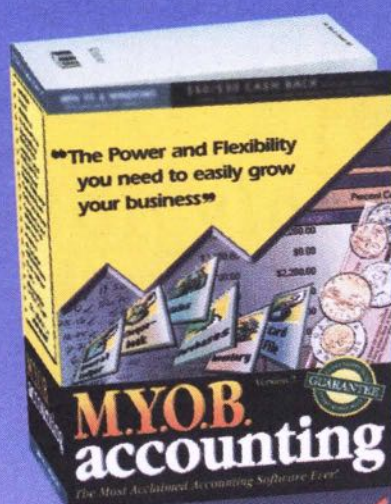
### Technology gets nosier

Evans had concerns that the privacy of individuals was being increasingly compromised due in part to the capabilities of advancing technologies. Anyone with the know-how could obtain, categorize, store, and distribute information with a speed and efficiency never before possible. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates wrote "The same digital technology that makes it so easy to communicate also makes it easy to snoop. Steaming open an envelope has never been so simple and untraceable as it is, in effect, on the Internet."

"These technologies themselves are neither good nor bad," Evans remarks from his

continued on page 15

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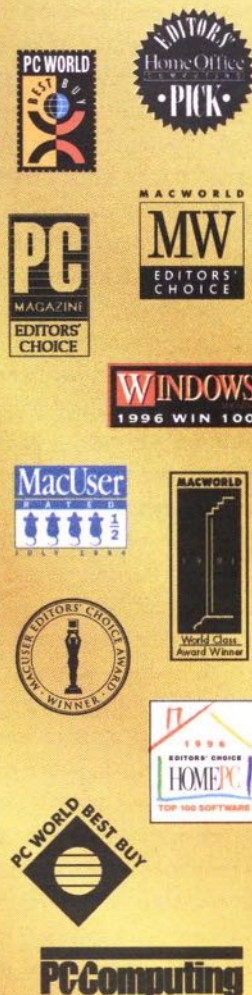
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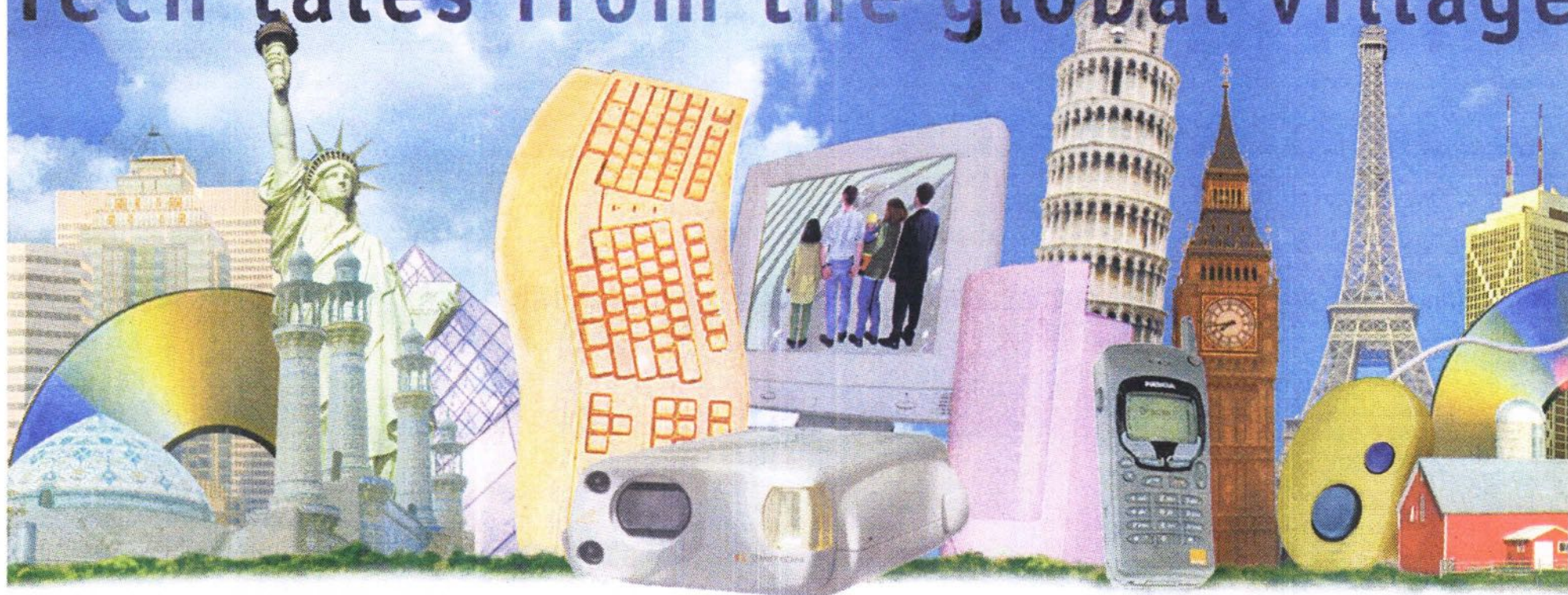
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# Tech tales from the global village



## Slender threads

• • By LAUREN BLANKSTEIN • •

As we put together this "global" issue, the impact of the proverbial global village really hit home.

Like most other offices, we have developed a dependency on e-mail. On a daily basis, electronic messages are sometimes our only link to editors and writers across Canada—not to mention across the office. In this issue, we used our handy e-mail to track down and work with foreign writers for the first time, something many larger magazines do routinely. Working with them turned out to be no different than working with one of our local writers. All of a sudden, Cairo and Mississauga were both just a mouse-click away.

One the other hand, as convenient as it is, e-mail can also be incredibly frustrating. With the help of Usenet, we tracked down a knowledgeable source in Namibia, Africa, to fill us in on the state of affairs there. Unfortunately, however, after a short correspondence his messages stopped without warning. We were left without the information we were looking for and had no other way of contacting him.

Ironically, both the beauty and the hindrance of e-mail—depending on whether you're sending or replying—is that you can't force a person to reply. We could have put together this issue without using e-mail and the Internet—after all, fax machines, courier services, and the telephone were more than sufficient just two years ago. The question is, would we have? Probably not. The cost, efficiency, and immediacy of the Net, however, made it surprisingly easy.

## The Web's no polyglot—yet

• • By ALAN THWAITS • •  
(Additional research by LAUREN BLANKSTEIN)

If you believe everything you've read about the Web, you might think that it's the long-awaited doorway to effortless world-wide communication. The press regularly falls over itself proclaiming the Web to be a "seamless whole." But is that true? Is the Web "culture blind," or, as some have begun to argue, is it as prone to bias as traditional media?

Let's consider the problem by using the familiar metaphor of travelling. Look at your bookmarked sites (if you're a Netscaper) or your Favourites list (if you use Explorer). Chances are that most of those sites will present themselves in English. Visiting those sites is like travelling on a packaged tour. Although the scenery changes, and those "outside" your immediate experience may be

"different" from you, your experience of the Web will be in English.

Now, recall those splendid but unnerving times when you've travelled in a country where, not only was English not spoken, but the written alphabet wasn't in Roman script. Remember trying to decipher street signs in Greece? Or figuring out which was the men's washroom in a town in rural India? Or frantically trying to read the instructions on the bottle of medicine when you were in China?

Your bookmarked sites—of which you're justifiably proud—offer a similar experience for the cyberspace traveller who doesn't read English. For a taste of what that feels like, point your browser at the Internet Language Sites Web site, and visit a couple of the links listed there. Now imagine how you'd feel if *that* were your usual experience of the Web. Would the Web still seem to you

to be a "global communications technology?" Or would you be tempted to start inveighing against "cultural imperialism?"

The stark reality is that the Internet has been, since its inception, a creature of the Western, English-speaking world. Even now, Net usage is weighted in favour of those whose first language is English and whose context is Western European. According to recent figures released by the Internet Society, 74 per cent of the Net's content is in English, while 14 per cent is in European languages, and the remainder in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. As the Net has become popularized and commercialized, however, more and more users are demanding—and getting—alternatives to English.

### Say again?

One option, of course, is translation software. To continue our metaphor, using this

continued on page 16

## Regulating the Net in Asia

• • By SUE MULLEY • •

**HONG KONG** - The Internet is a boom business in Hong Kong and Singapore, and in China for the people who can afford it. There are probably more computers per capita in Hong Kong and Singapore than anywhere else in the world. Hong Kong may have more Internet service providers (ISPs) than in any other city. The Hong Kong government has adopted a laissez-faire attitude to the Internet and has not made any attempts to regulate it—there are no restrictions on access to sex and pornography.

While there are no planned attempts to regulate the Internet in Hong Kong after June 1997 when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule, there are concerns here about

freedom of the press after that time, according to Anthony Slackey, development manager of technology at the Technology Centre, the University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong. The government in China has set up a dedicated department to control content on the Internet in China. Says Savio Chow, general manager for North Asia of Netscape Communications: "China is definitely concerned about controlling content on the Internet."

"Since there are only two entry points in China, namely Beijing and Shanghai, both under the Ministry of Post and Telegram they potentially can assert some control on the access using some proxy servers. However, any access through long-distance telephone calls or through dedicated lines will not be able to be controlled," Chow says.

### Everything's under control?

The situation in Singapore is quite different. Laws are applied to local ISPs that make them liable for providing access to any "undesirable contents." Morality is a "very broad term" there, Slackey says. Explains Singapore's Lee Kheng Joo, who is CEO for ISP Supernet, the Singapore government's guidelines are similar to those for cinema and television, covering sex, violence, and religious harmony.

"I think Westerners have an entrenched stereotype view of the Singapore government and society. Can you talk about the Red Indians in the USA? Can you promote the IRA in Britain? What about the Lapps in Scandinavia or the Basque in France and Belgium, the Eskimos in Greenland and Canada?"

continued on page 16

SEE MORE GLOBAL VILLAGE FEATURES ON PAGE 21



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# Tax time

Compiled by LARA THAIS KING

Once again, we asked the tax guys, John and George, to review the list of tax-preparation software for sale this year. They looked at a total of seven packages—plus an eighth product available for free via the Internet.

Some good news for this tax season is that the software packages seemed to have dropped in price since last year.

The reviews use a four-disk rating system based on ease of use, capabilities, and additional features that make the program more desirable.

Finally, most products this year have e-filing capabilities. The taxpayer is still unable to e-file directly to Revenue Canada, however. Returns have to be taken to a licensed e-file preparer, a \$5-\$25 expense.

The benefit of e-filing is that you may see your cheque from the government earlier. E-filing may not be worth the additional charge, though, depending on when you send. In March, you may receive the cheque about two days earlier, but it could be as much as two weeks earlier in April when the bulk of returns are sent off.

You may not be interested in all the bells and whistles available from these packages, but they all offer, at the very least, a better alternative to the traditional pencil method.

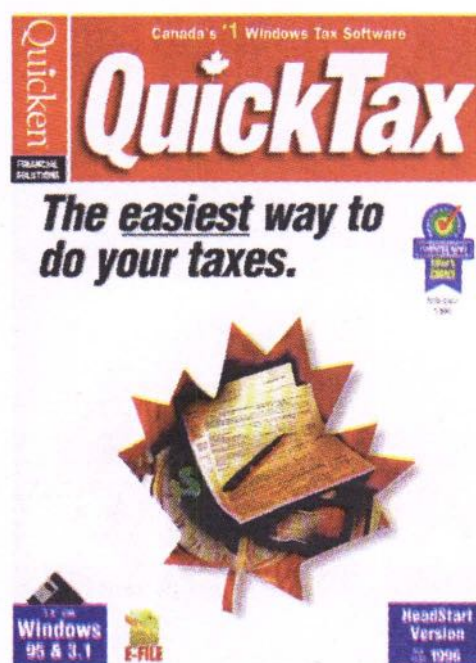
## John Newcombe's reviews

All the software reviewed offers an accurate and easy alternative to preparing your tax return by hand. One product stands out, however: *QuickTax* from Intuit Canada. I found it was easy to use and visually superior to any of the other packages. Software is a matter of personal preference, though, so read on to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the seven packages for yourself.

### QuickTax



This was my favorite program last year, and Intuit impressed me again this year with another well rounded product. There are even a few graphic enhancements for 1996.



The base version provides all the tax forms and online help, while the deluxe version adds a multimedia presentation for those who want more assistance in preparing their returns. Depending on your temperament, you may be pleased that the two tax experts are back in the deluxe version to guide you through your return—I find them annoying and turned them off, but they do add a personal touch and provide useful tips.

*QuickTax* has a very pleasant and easy-to-read interface—other software developers, take a look. The entry template for tax slips is in one location and is well laid out, and I was particularly impressed at how the system walked me through preparing the business

income form.

One complaint is that the "auditor" process kept recommending I claim an Ontario Tax Credit even though I had already completed the form.

Overall, this product provides the best support for taxpayers of all levels from beginners to the most sophisticated.

### CanTax



*CanTax* is the grandmother of tax software, with over ten years of experience. Last year's version tested the reputation of the product, however. The developers appear to have done their homework over the past year, though, and have produced a solid and apparently bug-free version for 1996.

The program provides very extensive help and tax advice. The tax information is well organized, allowing you to get context-sensitive help or look up a specific topic and go straight to the appropriate tax form.

The JumpStart automated preparation method is very logical, taking you step-by-step through the data-entry process and showing you how to use all the features available in the program.

The same poor interface as last year remains, however. Why do software developers love 6-point Courier as a screen font, which is small and hard to read? The icons on the toolbar are not very descriptive, either. Fortunately, the JumpStart screens tell you which icons to select.

### GriffTax



If you are looking for a well designed, innovative product with good support features, *GriffTax* is worth considering. You can download the Mac-only software from the company and complete your return as usual, or you can prepare your return right on the Internet.

You will find the traditional route a well written program with all the usual help and tax advice features, including an excellent worksheet for calculating your RRSP contribution and exploring various contribution scenarios. The welcome page allows you to determine which forms you need to complete your return using simple descriptions.

The download process was not easy, however, and I required assistance to find the downloadable files.

The Internet route is interesting; you do not need to download any software, and it allows for a more direct approach in e-filing while still maintaining good security. If you use this service, you go to the *GriffTax* site and com-

plete your return (you do not enter your name, so it remains anonymous), and pay for it using a secure commerce server.



### HomeTax

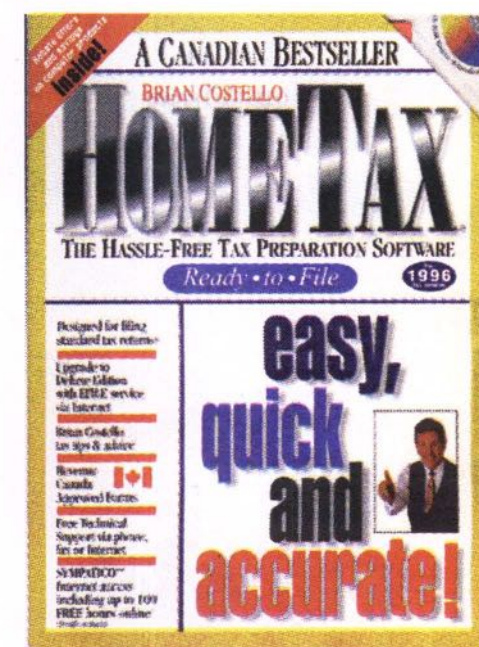


*HomeTax* is my second choice of the software surveyed. It provides excellent resource files and a good system to enter and check your tax data.

If you have a typical return, you can prepare and file it immediately, instead of having to wait for a final version. You will need the Deluxe version if you have rental or business income, however—something covered by the base version of the other software products.

The data-entry templates were easy to follow and nicely laid out, but *HomeTax* has the same poor interface characteristics as *CanTax* '97.

The "EasyStep" automated system takes you through all the forms and reminds you if you are missing any tax slips. If you use the form-by-form option, though, you are faced with an intimidating list of forms, organized by Revenue Canada form number, not description.



### Icicle Tax



This is a very capable product with a very attractive price. I would recommend it for

continued on page 17



## Information and privacy ...

continued from page 11

Vancouver-based office. "They're like the automobile, for instance: good if used wisely; dangerous if misused."

The current buzzwords in the technology industries are "data warehousing" and "data search"—and both are in stages of growth. Data warehousing involves the compilation and storage of huge databases of information—information that could well include your credit rating, driving record, criminal record, buying habits, medical information, and more.

What happens to this information once compiled? How is it used? To whom is it sold, released, shared, or traded? How is it stored, and how and when is it destroyed?

According to Evans, BC's current legislation addresses these issues within the public sector, but the need for regulation of the private sector is a fast developing topic.

### Privitization equals publication?

As the government moves toward increasing privatization, new questions of privacy and information are raised. For example, when a government branch privatizes, its

banks of information are no longer safeguarded by government regulations. Personnel files, containing such private information as medical records, union grievances, and so on, consequently become unprotected by law.

BC FIPA has concluded that growing political pressures, both national and international, are combining with steadily mounting public concern to make some form of regulation covering the private sector inevitable. "It's not a question of 'if,' it's 'when,'" Evans states.

"The issue for FIPA is how that decision will be made, and by whom, and what form that

regulation will take. We don't want these issues to be decided by an elite...we believe that all voices should be heard, including members of the public as well as government bodies, bureaucrats, and industry."

Once again, it's a case of finding the balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of society. BC FIPA believes that a satisfactory solution can be achieved only if all stakeholders participate in the process.

For more information about these or other prominent "hot issues," contact BC FIPA. ♦

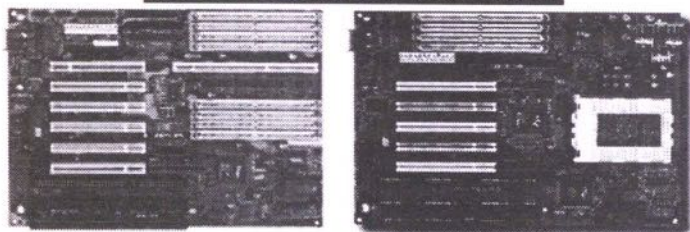
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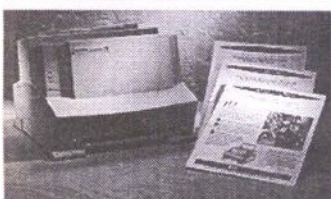
Daytek 1436/1536/1531/1731/1704/2102	\$290/365/380/715/925/2125
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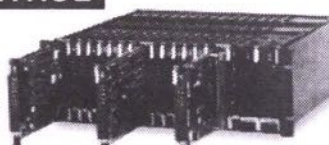
Seagate EIDE 1.2/1.7/2.1/2.5GB	\$270/305/345/375
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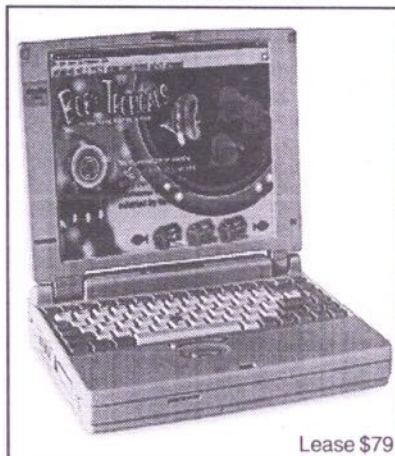
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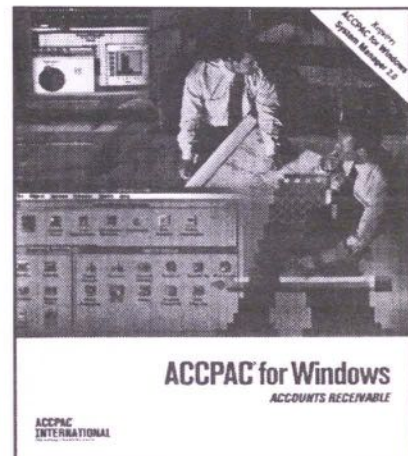
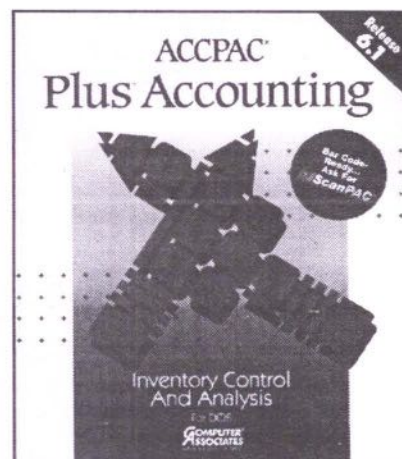
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### The Web's no polyglot - yet ...

continued from page 12

kind of application is like the traveller making an effort to learn the language. Sure, it may not be perfect, but it lets you encounter the "foreign" environment on its own terms, so that the burden of making sense of things is laid on you. A good example is *Web Translator*, a Windows-compatible program

that translates Web sites written in Spanish, French, or German.

But this tool doesn't really address the issues of Web *production* from a non-English base. The Sindbad Arabic browser plug-in for *Netscape Navigator 3.0*, from Cairo's Sakhr Software, takes the bull by the horns by starting from an Arabic base. It features an Arabic/English interface for Arabic Windows 95, the ability to run over English Windows

95 with English interface only (but supporting all other Arabic features), and multiple code page detection and conversion, including Arabic Macintosh documents.

*Zi Browser*, from Calgary's Zi Corporation, goes a couple of steps further. It allows access to both Chinese character-based and Latin alphabetic languages. *Zi Browser* users can view Web-site contents in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Japanese, and Korean concurrently with Latin alphabets.

More (and higher quality) Web-translation tools will make browsing Webspace a more international experience.

The emergence of technologies such as Sindbad and *Zi Browser* will empower those from non-Western cultures. Even so, unless other issues such as control of bandwidth, ownership of regulatory bodies, and cost of access are addressed, software solutions may remain mere bandages. ♦

### Regulating the net in Asia ...

continued from page 12

"Would the editors of the world allow the Chinese people to talk about how the Westerners pillaged China 100 years ago and why Japan was not made to apologise for the War during the years of the United States' administration of China? In short, there is no such thing as freedom of the press, the editors would not allow it.

"Not everyone can handle such sensitive discussions without getting worked up."

The Singapore government is using proxy servers to regulate the Net. ISPs have to install a proxy server and dial-up customers have to take the route through the proxy server, Lee explains, adding "My enjoyment of the Web does not diminish." Corporate leased lines in Singapore could go straight to the World Wide Web, however, and larger companies have their own guidelines and policies on Internet access by staff.

Interestingly, voice communication over the Internet in Singapore has been ruled not to infringe on the license of the local telephone company, Singtel, which Lee describes as a "surprising move."

### Too much of a good thing?

In Hong Kong, there are probably more ISPs than in any other city and this could become a problem. "It's not a hugely profitable business," Slackey says. Some of the smaller ISPs are offering unlimited access for as little as US\$10 a month. Slackey predicts a shakeout of ISPs, especially as the "people with financial clout" like AT&T, IBM Supernet, and Hong Kong Telecom provide increasingly advanced services. "If other ISPs are not in a position to match these services they will disappear," Slackey predicts.

Currently one of the major problems facing Hong Kong residents is international roaming, as many local ISPs do not have such a service for those travelling overseas. Oversubscription to ISPs was a problem a couple of years ago in Hong Kong, but as modem lines have become less expensive this has been overcome. At certain times of the day however, it can still be quite slow accessing information from overseas, especially the United States, Slackey says.

Sue Mulley is a freelance writer based in Hong Kong. ♦

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## Tax time...

continued from page 14

more advanced users, as it does not provide as much assistance as other products.

This program uses files for either *Microsoft Excel* (version 3 for Mac and version 5 for Windows) or *ClarisWorks* as the platform for the tax-return template. You download the files from the *Icicle Tax* Web site. As the product "piggybacks" on other software, the files are small (about 180 KB) and easily downloaded and installed.

The interface is very good and I found it easy to navigate around and very reasonably priced for a full featured product.

On the down side, the help files were not as extensive as in other tax packages. In addition, it did not offer an "automated entry" approach to walk you through preparing your return. You must have either *Microsoft Excel* or *ClarisWorks* on your computer—although it works equally well on either Mac or PC.

## Quick Returns



This is the only DOS-based product reviewed, so it suffers in comparison to its GUI-based competitors. Nevertheless, it does have the lowest system requirements of any product reviewed here, and is ideal for taxpayers using DOS with limited computing power—otherwise there are better choices.

*Quick Returns* has good online help available, and an "Expert Auditor" ensures your return is accurate. There is also an easy setup to e-file your return.

Data entry is awkward, as the supporting schedules do not automatically transfer their data to the main form; you must manually re-enter the information.

The DOS-based interface and the colour choice made the screen very difficult to read.

## Sonic Tax



This is another product available by download from the Internet. The file is about 2 MB, so a fast connection to the Internet is recommended. *Sonic Tax* is a capable program, although it does not offer all the tax advice and help that the "retail" software packages offer (at about the same price). This product would be suitable for knowledgeable taxpayers who like the convenience of dealing over the Internet.

Although I tested the 1995 version of the program, I was assured that the final 1996 forms would be available by press time. The forms you complete look like the tax forms you receive, which make it seem more natural.

Each of the lines on the T-1 return has a box with the referencing form number. The box also links you to that form. The setup can be customized for the individual needs

of the taxpayer.

The flow of information entry on the schedules was poor, however. It did not proceed from section to section and the information was not automatically entered in all the required fields (for example, on the business-income section, the data from the home office and capital cost allowance sections was not entered in the applicable expense line).

## CoolTax

FLS Research, makers of professional tax-preparation software, have decided to make a slimmed down version of the product available for download free off the Internet. I have to admit, I am always suspicious of something that seems too good to be true. Still, *CoolTax*

does do a credible job of preparing returns and you cannot beat the price.

As might be expected, there is no technical support for *CoolTax*, except what is found in the online help, which is well designed. The tax advice is also good. There is no support for e-filing returns, though, and you do not have all the bells and whistles

continued on page 18



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**Tax time...**

continued from page 17

you find with other programs.

I am still not sure I understand why FLS is doing this, but it does provide an excellent choice for anyone looking for a very inexpensive way of preparing their return that is clearly better than doing it by hand.

John Newcombe is a CMA and can be reached via the Internet at <http://web.idirect.com/~Newcombe/> ♦

**George Petricko's reviews**

Nothing is certain but death and taxes. It is also a certainty that the preparation of tax returns has never been exactly a joy for any taxpayer. This year, however, the tax-software industry has provided many excellent packages that contain an *embarras de choix* of features to take the

guesswork out of RRSP calculations and planning, and make the preparation of tax returns, if not pleasant, at least fairly effortless.

**CanTax**

An excellent comeback from a poor performance last year.

*CanTax's* online manual and help file are excellent. In an attempt to help the user to better understand how the program works, *CanTax* has provided a very detailed User's Guide.

*CanTax* can process multiple returns, up to a limit of 15, and provides for the simultaneous processing of spousal returns. The software also displays the refund or balance due at the bottom of the screen.

Information from *Quicken* and *MS Money* can be imported into *CanTax*.

*CanTax* allows for customization of the work environment, such as edit preferences, menu style, background colour, toolbar button size, and toolbar position.

Their RRSP Work Sheet is still very confusing and difficult to work with, however. *QuickTax's* RRSP Analyser is a far superior feature.

**HomeTax**

A consistent performer—no surprises here!

*HomeTax* is available on three diskettes or on a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM version comes with tax advice from Canada's svengali of financial counselling, Brian Costello.

*HomeTax* can process multiple returns up to a limit of 16. *HomeTax* also provides a very innovative and fun feature that allows the user to reconfigure the mouse pointer to appear as a male or female icon. The confusion that inevitably arises from working on two (spousal) returns simultaneously is thereby all but eliminated.

*HomeTax* has a new conversion option to convert 1995 *QuickTax* Personal Information into the *HomeTax* file structure format. Only taxpayer's, spouse's, and dependant's information can be converted. *HomeTax* has not provided detailed documentation on this procedure.

Information from *Quicken*, *MS Money*, and *Royal Bank Managing Your Money* can be imported into *HomeTax* and the EasyPrep method gives the user a great deal of step-by-step coaching on the preparation of the income tax return.

**Quick Returns**

*Quick Returns* has been making excellent DOS tax-preparation programs since 1987.

It can run on a system as small as a 286 or 386 PC, thus making tax software available even to those taxpayers working on older equipment.

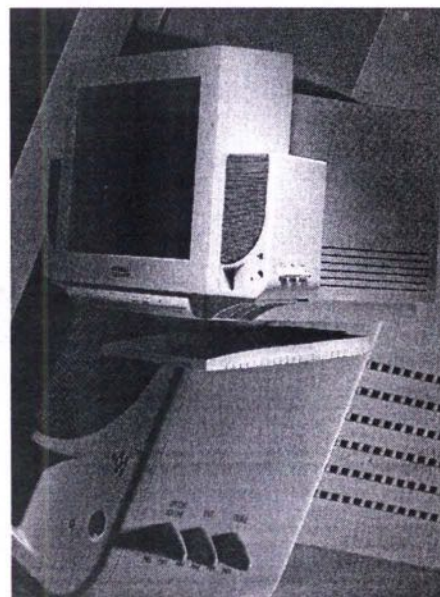
*Quick Returns* allows for customization of the work environment, by allowing the user to configure the time for the program to carry out an autosave. Screen colours, drives, directories, and printer selection are also all at the command of the user.

Users with multiple T-slips can use the calculator to total the various boxes and once

continued on page 19

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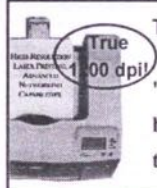
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# CP! Calendar of ..... Events

## Tax time ... continued from page 18

the totals are calculated, the user can paste these figures on the appropriate line of the T1 return.

A status line appears at the bottom of the *Quick Returns* screen displaying the amount of the refund or the balance owing.

*Quick Returns* provides for the processing of financial statements for real estate, business, and professional returns, as well as easy-to-follow RRSP work sheets.

## QuickTax

This is the best Windows tax-preparation software this year, in my opinion.

*QuickTax* has the best organized context-sensitive online help of any of the products reviewed. The manual, however, is very basic, allowing the user the opportunity to install and become familiar with the features of the program before proceeding with the return itself. This is a practical approach to tax preparation, because the user is not overwhelmed at the outset with a great deal of tax information before he or she has had a chance to become comfortable with the program.

*QuickTax* can process multiple returns up to a limit of 18. Detailed returns—with income from sources other than only, for example, employment and investment—can be processed with this package. It can also

## March 16

Compuchange Computer Show. From 10 AM - 4 PM at the Firefighters' Club, 6515 Bonsor Ave., Burnaby, BC. Contact: (604) 438-1094 or (604) 438-6114.

## March 24-25

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## April 8

Netcom Caravan '97. From 10 AM - 5 PM at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, 999 Canada Place. Contact: (416) 621-8135

those for businesses, professionals, and taxpayers declaring rental income.

*SonicTax* also has an excellent RRSP calculator.

For the 1996 tax season, *SonicTax* plans to release a 32-bit version of this program for Win95.

process spousal returns simultaneously. *QuickTax* imports from *Quicken* versions 4 to 6 for Windows.

*QuickTax* has this year introduced an RRSP Analyser and a Graphical Tax Summary. These new features represent major improvements in the *QuickTax* package.

## SonicTax

A promising newcomer from Alberta, this 600 KB zipped file can be downloaded from the *SonicTax* Web site. With the exception of Quebec, *SonicTax* can process T1 federal income tax returns for users residing in all Canadian provinces and territories.

*SonicTax*'s simple interface consists of three windows: the first provides the file, form instructions, and help commands; it also shows the amount owing or refund payable on the user's return. The second provides for T-Slip form selection, and the T1 is displayed in the third window.

*SonicTax* provides for entry of information from the user's T-Slips into replicas of Revenue Canada T-Slips. *SonicTax* does not impose a limit on the number of returns a user can prepare using its tax software.

Despite being a powerful tax program, *SonicTax* occupies very little hard drive space. The program has been written with the home user in mind, but it is capable of processing more complex returns, such as

## CoolTax

With *CoolTax*, you get something for nothing—but not a great deal. This new tax-preparation program, which can be downloaded from FLS Research's Web site, is a stripped-down version of FLS's professional tax program, *Taxbyte*. The 2.6 MB "zipped" file installs at 5 MB.

When *CoolTax* is launched, very large icons for the options "New Return," "Family Return," "Tutorial," and "Help" appear on the screen monitor. This gets the user off on the right track at the very beginning. *CoolTax* also provides for the preparation of spousal returns.

The icons for several features found in *Taxbyte*, the professional version of *CoolTax*, are shown on the screen. When the user clicks on one of these icons, however, he or she will find that it is unavailable in the abbreviated *CoolTax* program. Attempts to use these features will be thwarted. Many users will find this very frustrating and annoying.

*CoolTax* does have an excellent online tutorial guiding the user through the preparation of sample returns for an individual taxpayer and for a family.

## Cover

or visit <http://www.netcom.plesman.com/>  
E-mail your event listing to [calendar@tcpon.com](mailto:calendar@tcpon.com) or fax it to (604) 688-4680. Please include location, contact information, time, and date for our readers. For inclusion in the April issue, calendar information must be received by March 10. ♦

George R. Petricko, Computer Consultant and Licensed E-file Preparer, can be reached via e-mail at [grp@planeteeer.com](mailto:grp@planeteeer.com) ♦

## info box

*Cantax '97*, from Softkey Software Products Inc. Windows 95 or 3.x. \$36.95 (SRP). Available via retail. For more information, call 1-800-265-3800 or visit <http://www.cantax.com/>

*GriffTax*, from Colin Griffiths and Associates. Mac and Windows. Bilingual. \$39.95. Available via the Internet. For more information, call (613) 839-2455 or visit <http://www.grifftax.com/>

*Home Tax*, from Softkey Software Products Inc. Windows 95 or 3.x. English and French. \$24.99 (\$29.99 Deluxe). Available via retail. For more information, call (905) 624-0303 or 1-800-567-1117, or visit <http://www.hometax.com/>

*Quick Returns*, from QR Software Corporation. DOS. \$34.95. Available from the company. Call (416) 626-9282.

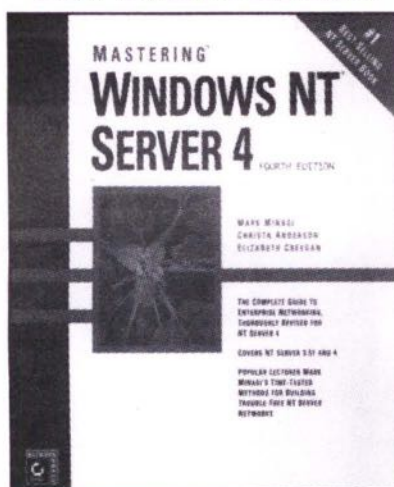
*QuickTax*, from Intuit Canada Inc. Windows 95 or 3.x and Mac. English and French. \$29.88 (\$39.88 Deluxe). Available via retail. For more information, call 1-800-825-8169 or visit <http://www.intuit.com/canada/quicktax/>

*Sonic Tax*, from Taxbusters. Windows 95 or 3.x. \$29.95. Available via the Internet. For more information, call 1-800-287-0978 or visit <http://www.taxbuster.com/>

*Icicle Tax*, from Icicle Software. Windows 95 or 3.x and Mac. \$15. Available via the Internet. For more information, call (613) 992-6287.

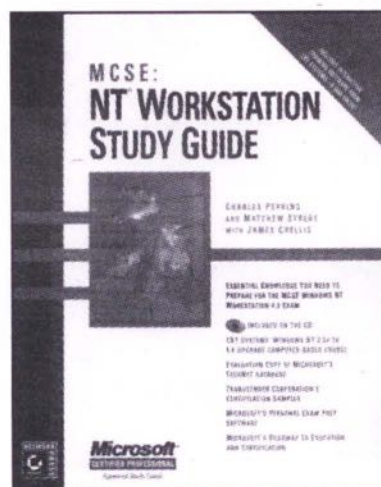
*CoolTax*, from FLS Research Inc. Windows 95 and NT (32-bit version) or 3.x (16-bit version). Free. Available via the Internet. For more information, call (416) 490-8997 or visit <http://www.cooltax.com/>

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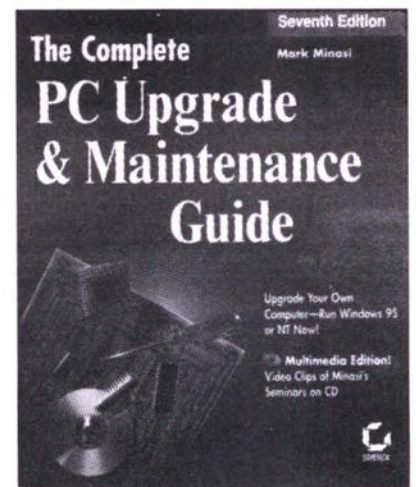
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# Overcoming *distance*

• • By SHARI LESLIE SEGALL • •

PARIS - Jane and I are running partners. While running, we share thoughts, ideas, opinions. We think about what each of us has said during one of our animated conversations. We concentrate together on the elements that go into a good work-out plan. I've even helped Jane train for and finish her first marathon.

We don't live in the same neighbourhood, though. We don't live in the same city. Or country. Or even continent. In fact, we have never met—in person, that is.

Thanks to the Net, however, Jane, who lives in Rochester, New York, and I, an American who lives in Paris, France, now cannot imagine what running would be like without each other's friendship and support. This is how it all happened:

I wanted an "I Was Published In *Runner's World*" t-shirt. I e-mailed a couple letters to the editor. They weren't published. No t-shirt. I wanted one at any cost. I e-mailed some more letters to the editor. I'm not even sure these weren't deleted from the in-basket before being read. No t-shirt.

I decided to stop at nothing and in 1994 I ran my first marathon, in Paris, then hobbled

right home and sat down at my word processor. I e-mailed a short piece to *Runner's World* about the glories of breezing through kilometre 5 at the doorstep of Notre Dame and suffering through kilometre 32 in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. *Runner's World* sent me a polite reply. You guessed it: no shirt.

Being a marathoner and therefore not one to give up, I wrote again in the spring of 1995. Before long, the snail-mail started showing up. The t-shirt came first. Then the June issue of the magazine, with my letter. Then a postcard with a phone number and the following message: "Dear S.L.S.: Somebody e-mailed me about your letter in *Runner's World* because they know I live in Paris and I also run. So, just out of curiosity I looked up your address. Want to run some morning?"

I went straight for the phone. Robert and I spoke for awhile, met at the Luxembourg Gardens that Sunday for a run and became good friends. During one of our long summer loops along the Seine between the Louvre and the Bastille, it dawned on Robert that something was missing: the spark that had brought us together in the first place. Robert's sister Jane, who'd contacted him about my letter to the editor, needed to be

brought into the circuit. He suggested that I e-mail Jane and encourage her in her preparation for the 1995 New York Marathon.

While electronic training had its drawbacks—not the least of which was my inability to see the way Jane moved and to make suggestions accordingly—its advantages were enormous. The very elements that frustrate online relationships focussing on phenomena such as flirtation and financial negotiation were those elements which facilitated Jane's success: no body language here to tell me that Jane just wasn't up to today's task; no tone of voice to transform her lack of motivation into hope for reprieve; no luxury of time to waste on chatting each other up about what next month's vacation plans are beginning to look like. Our cyber-sessions were one huge manifestation of the famous shoe manufacturer's motto.

One year and three marathons later (Jane's first, my third and fourth), we are inseparable e-training partners—and pals. During our respective morning runs, which take place 4,000 miles and six hours apart, we reflect upon the subjects of our frequent electronic conversations—from the value of rest days to the idiosyncrasies of family members; from which high-performance running shoes to try to which low-inspira-

tion pastimes to avoid. Jane says it is unquestionable that her e-training partner and pal helped her get to and through her first marathon. I say it is unquestionable that my e-training partner and pal will help me get to and through my next.

Our dream, of course, is to run together, in person—ideally with Robert, whose frequent ocean crossings allow him to accumulate his share of miles with Jane (always e-described to me via his laptop from Jane's office) and kilometres with me (always e-reported to Jane via his desktop PC from his Paris apartment). Would our meeting be anticlimactic after all these months of sweating together in our computers and our minds?

"Not possible!" we tell each other. There's still so much more to explore. I am determined to find all the little hiding places where Jane stashes her water bottles along her rambling Rochester route. Jane looks forward to cruising under a pinkened sky playing ball with the sun over the Seine on a spring morning.

And then there's the most important business of all: I have this special t-shirt that I just have to show to my friend Jane... ♦

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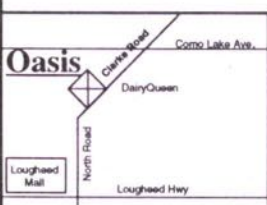
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Cover

## Growing pains

• • By SIONA JENKINS • •

CAIRO—Ten years ago, Mona, a wealthy, young Cairene, turned 30. As she got ready to go for her birthday dinner, the doorbell rang. On the doorstep stood a man in a blue uniform. "Congratulations," he said, "you've got your telephone!"

"But I didn't order a telephone," she said.

"Yes, you did," said the man. "Your father put your name down on the day you were born. And now it's here. Congratulations!"

This story, which happened to a friend's cousin, graphically illustrates the state of Egyptian communications technology a little over a decade ago. Outdated equipment and poor maintenance meant that even if you had a phone, placing a call was often time-consuming and futile.

Since then, a fibre-optic network has been installed throughout the country and the number of phone lines has jumped from less than 500,000 in 1981 to 4.25 million today. This year, the number will increase by 700,000, and by 1998, by one million lines a year.

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# The grass is always greener, even in cyberspace

• • By TORSTEN SCHLABACH • •

MUNICH - Having access to technology and making use of it are two different things. Unfortunately, people who know how to use a technology often do not have access to it, and vice versa. One example of this phenomenon is the use of the Internet and its related telecommunications facilities in Germany versus the United States and Canada.

In a typical conversation of two arbitrary conference attendees, the guy from North America complains that the Internet is slow. This is usually when the German asks him: "Why don't you use ISDN to hook up?" While the US or Canadian citizen might not consider this option seriously, it's a fair question.

The German public telephone network is entirely digital behind the scenes. You can get a single analogue line, which will then be hooked up to a digital switch, or you can get an ISDN line with two channels of 64 Kbps, for a little bit less than the cost of two plain phone lines. And this is available all over the country, even in small villages. An ISDN board for the PC is available for less than US\$100 and most Internet-access providers allow access at ISDN speed at no extra charge.

## Pay as you go

Later on, the same two guys meet again after a conference session about using virtual chat-rooms. Now it's the German who wonders what that might be good for. Who would want to spend so much money for a couple of hours a day on the Internet? The Canadian wonders what money the German is talking about.

Local calls are subject to a charge in Germany. Rates are not too high, but local calls are not free. In addition, smaller cities often do not have an ISP available within the local area, which means users have to connect to the Internet by a long-distance call.

Of course, having to pay for every minute you stay on the Web often restricts its use to what is really necessary. Just cruising around to see what's new and what might be interesting is not very common to most Germans—except computer nerds.

That often leads to the problem that many people, having seen the Web six months or so ago and not found it very useful at a first glance, quit their ISP subscription—even though lots of useful local content may have appeared in the interim.

The other problem is e-mail. If it takes a German two to three days to answer an e-mail, this is not because of the different time zone or because he wants to think over his reaction, but because he did not read it earlier. Because any call checking for new e-mail is charged, hardly anyone sets up his PC for automatic e-mail retrieval several times a day—to say nothing of auto-forwarding e-mail to a pager.

So what would happen if one could roll out cheap ISDN all over North America and make Deutsche Telekom AG stop charging for local calls? There might be much more trans-Atlantic business being conducted, and many more friendships forged in cyberspace.

Torsten Schlabach lives in Munich, Germany. He has written two computer books and is the European correspondent for two American radio talk shows. ♦

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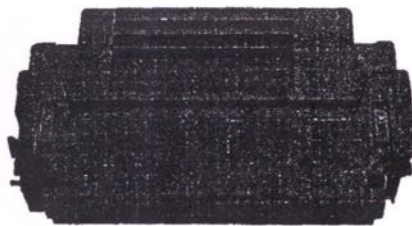


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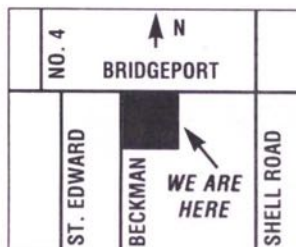
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# Surfing for God

• • By ALAN THWAITES • •

In the late 1960s, Christian seminaries in Europe and North America were abuzz with the "God is dead" movement. At least, that's what it was called in the popular press; in theological circles, it was recognized as an acknowledgement that the old ways of thinking about, talking about, and searching for God had gone the way of steam trains and clipper ships.

What was needed for the 20th century, argued the movement's adherents, was a new context for the search. The times were a-changin', as one populist theologian sang, and so people went looking for God in all sorts of new places.

Where did all those seekers after truth go? All over the spiritual map, it seems. Some married Christian scholarships with Marxist economic theory to come up with something called liberation theology. Some went to the East, to an exploration of Hinduism and Buddhism. Some cast tradition aside, and, combining the basic tenets of the Human Potential Movement with the wilder side of depth psychology and a smattering of folk spirituality, produced the so-called "New Age" religions. And some, of course, cast their

lot with the new technological gods of the emerging computer culture.

God, obviously, was far from dead. In fact, demographers, such as David Foot of the University of Toronto, and sociologists of religion, such as Reginald Bibby, of the University of Lethbridge, tell us that people are more interested than ever in religion and spirituality. God, they suggest, is alive and well. If that's the case, you might ask, how does one go about finding God in the 1990s?

The answer—are you surprised?—is on the Internet, of course! Because the Net is the ultimate "distributed database," it's the ideal place to go looking for information. Believers of all sorts love to tell others the good news, and the Net is where they share it with everyone. The various tools and technologies of cyberspace offer sustenance for the believer, resources for the seeker after wisdom, and a world of challenges to anyone who thinks that the nature of human belief can be nailed down once and for all.

## Gatherings of the faithful

Believers form communities—that's been true since Neanderthal men and women gathered around a communal fire at the end of the day, and it's no less true in cyberspace. The World Wide Web is home to literally thousands of faith communities, where doc-

trine is expounded and histories are related. Most major religions (and not a few minor ones!) are represented on the Web.

As in the real world, so in cyberspace—there's a wealth of information out there, so the real problem is in accessing it all. It's best to have a good starting point. In this case, that would be the Facets of Religion site, where a fellow named Armin Mueller has put together a fascinating collection of links to religious sites and resources all over the planet. Mueller offers little in the way of commentary, and the presentation is straightforward, so it's easy to get down to the spiritual nitty-gritty.

For's main religious listings are categorized according to origin and age. Each link represents an amazing depth—each click of the mouse leads deeper and deeper into someone's belief system. Behind the "Buddhist" link, for example, lie more than two dozen links to various aspects of Buddhist tradition and culture. Among them are a site showing a copy of the Diamond Sutra—the world's earliest, dated printed book; "The Power of Compassion" site, where the Dalai Lama comments on the problems of the modern world; and the Web site of the Gyuto Tantric Choir, once of Tibet and now of Dharamsala, India.

Not only mainstream religions are presented. The Facets of Religion site has a section devoted to "Pagan, Neo-Pagan, and Wiccan" links, where those curious about the Old Ways can get access to the Covenant of the Goddess site, the Pagan Federation Network, Incantator's Home page (dedicated to studies in Siberian shamanism), and the Temple of Awakening site, where visitors can rediscover the spirituality of ancient Egypt.

The tools of the Web—hypertext links, the use of graphics, and those magic "mailto:" connections—make a site the mirror of a religious community. A good example is the Anglicans Online site, which provides an overview of the international Anglican Communion, news about the working of the institutional church, access to Anglican magazines and newsletters, and links to national structures and local parishes. If you're an Anglican, you may be surprised to discover that your own parish has its own Web site! Similar "link sites" exist for most major Christian denominations, Jewish traditions, and Islamic communities.

Sometimes, a Web site can do much more than inform. At the Virtual Jerusalem site, visitors can place a cyberspace prayer in

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### Surfing for God...

continued from page 25

Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, where Jewish tradition says God picks up mail (the site's WebMaster says that his company doesn't read the messages that are destined for the Wall—a computer prints them on to sheets of paper, which are then stuffed in the Wall's crevices). And, at the Monastery of Christ in the Desert site, you can not only purchase items from the Monastery Gift Shop, but also book a room for personal or guided retreats from the Benedictine monks whose home the monastery is—something you'll probably want to do after viewing the glorious graphics on this site!

### Debate and discussion

Once you've explored the many worlds of faith, you'll probably find a community that meets your spiritual needs and answers—or at least begins to answer—most of your "Important Questions About Life." If that's the case, you'll want to move to a place where you can share your thoughts, ideas, and questions with others of the same bent. Then it's time to enjoy another great resource of the Net—mailing lists!

There are tens of thousands of mailing lists on the Net. As with the Web, we're talking an embarrassment of riches. If you're looking for a list-format spiritual home, look no further than the religion "subset" of

NeoSoft's Publicly Accessible Mailing Lists site. Here, you'll find descriptions and subscription information for lists to match every spiritual taste, ranging from Meher Baba to the Promise Keepers, from Jewish Studies to the Tiamat-L list (which, in case you're curious, stands for Testing the Internet As a Magickall Aethyric Tool).

A common metaphor used by those who seek God is that of the journey. Think of the Internet as a vast new continent, peopled by fellow seekers after Truth, and full of all the wonders of this world and the next, and you'll probably enjoy the trip. And discover that God, far from being dead, is alive and well on the Net! ♦

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<http://anglican.org/online/>  
Virtual Jerusalem  
<http://www.virtual.co.il/>  
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# Internet telephony:

## CLARIFICATIONS

• • By LYNN GREINER • •

The November 1996 story "Internet telephony: Products and issues" generated enough questions and comments from readers that we decided a follow-up would be appropriate.

One reader wondered how to tell if a sound card is full duplex. The simplest way is to read its documentation, if you still have it. Or check the manufacturer's Web site—there might be specs available there, or even updated drivers that will make the card work in full-duplex mode.

For example, Creative Labs, maker of the popular SoundBlaster cards, has new, full-duplex drivers for some models, free for the downloading. There may also be lists included with the Internet telephony software, and the software will probably tell you whether the card it sees when you install it is full or half duplex.

The second half of this reader's question had to do with modems, and whether DSVD modems can be used in place of full-duplex modems. First of all, all V.32 and V.34 modems are full duplex—they have to be to conform to these standards. A DSVD modem adds simultaneous voice and data, and should also conform to the V.xx standards. For true "two lines for the price of one," we'll have to wait for ADSL, which will allow separate voice and data calls, simultaneously, on the same line.

### Platform hopping

Another reader asked for information on cross-platform Internet telephony products. We found a Web page chock-full of useful data on the subject at <http://www.virtual-voice.com/telephony/choices.htm>. Head there for up-to-date information.

Now, some clarification. Although *Internet Phone*'s download is free, the serial number that lets you use it costs \$39.95. Version 4.5 for Windows 95 has just been released, while current versions for Windows 3.1 and Macintosh are 3.2 and 3.0, respectively.

Finally, a sharp-eyed reader pointed out that the standards (H.323 and T.120) adopted for Internet telephony were designed by the International Telecommunications Union in the mid-1980s; they don't belong to Microsoft, as the original text suggested. ♦

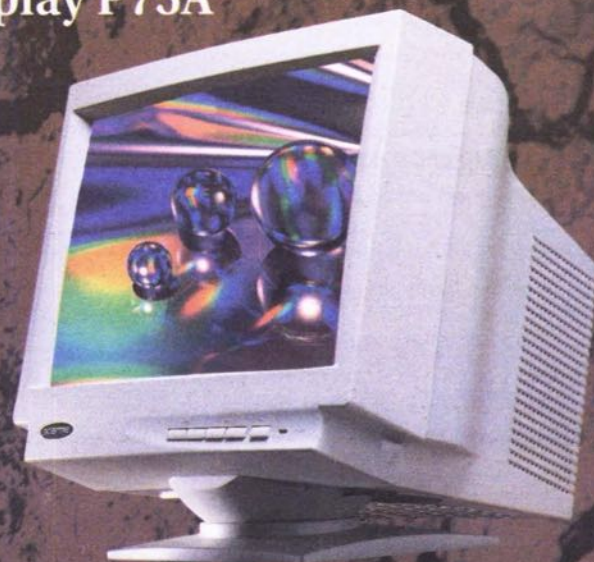
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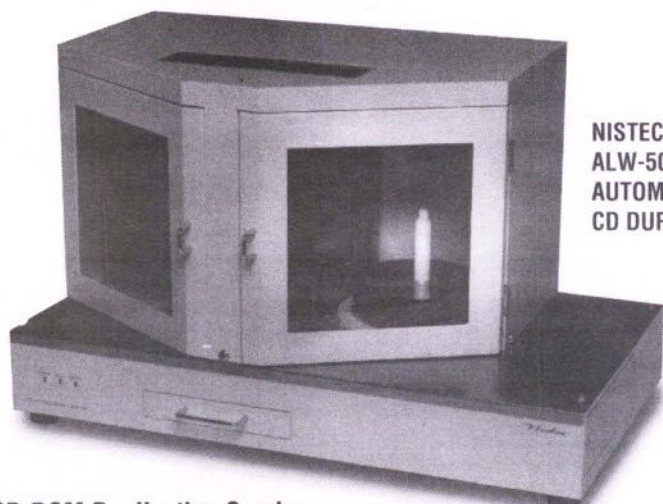
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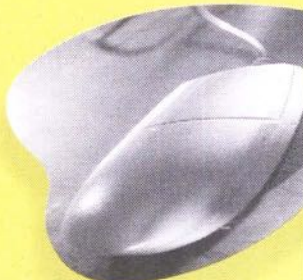
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## Columns

# In software as in flour, how many bugs are too many?



## Softwarey

Alan Zisman

Have you ever wanted to be a beta tester?

Traditionally, software companies, developing new or updated products, looked for volunteers to help them test prerelease versions of the software. For the companies, this provided the opportunity to try out the product in the real world, on a wide range of hardware, and interacting with a wider range of software than they could ever set up in their labs.

Beta testers typically didn't get paid (Corel has recently offered rewards to beta-testers who discovered new bugs). Instead, they were offered a free copy of the software, after its eventual release. Most did it for the thrill of being the first on their block to be able to run something new, even if it meant taking the risk that the beta software might be buggy enough to cause their computer to crash and burn.

Even though software companies required testers to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), swearing to reveal nothing about the product, there was rarely any difficulty getting volunteers (in fact, five months before the release of Windows 95, Microsoft was able to get over 200,000 people to pay \$32 each for the privilege of receiving a prerelease version of the software).

## Everybody does it

But times have changed. Beta copies of software seem to be everywhere. No, not just the pirated copies that are always circulated in the dark corners of Internet and BBS culture, but official betas. Go to almost any software developer's Web site, for example, and if you're patient, you can download multi-megabyte "beta" versions of the upcoming commercial releases.

This winter, you could get prerelease versions of *Microsoft Publisher* and *FrontPage 97* at Microsoft's site, or *Claris Home Page* at Claris's. Running buggy prerelease versions of *Netscape Navigator* months before the official release has become a tradition with many Webheads.

Off the Web, Microsoft distributed thousands of CDs with beta copies of *Office 97* to anyone who attended one of their free seminars that crossed North America last Fall.

When you download something labelled as a beta, you probably realize that along with the free software, you're getting free

bugs, in a product that isn't yet ready for commercial release to the paying public.

Somewhere along the way, though, it almost seems like we've all become beta-testers, even if we buy the shrink-wrapped product off a store shelf.

Take *Corel Draw*, for example. Eager buyers of *Corel Draw 4.0* a few years ago found themselves faced with a continual series of bug fixes—4.0a, 4.0b, and 4.0c—ending only with the release, the following spring, of version 5.0, and the promise of the cycle starting again.

## Casting a wide Net

I don't mean to single out Corel. Spin the wheel, and pick almost any software producer.

Microsoft's Windows NT is touted as a solid operating system, aimed at companies who can't afford to lose data to buggy software. But Service Pack (i.e., bug fix) 1 for version 4.0 was posted on Microsoft's Web page only days following the product's release, later followed by a rather large (15 MB) Service Pack 2.

SP2 fixed about 100 bugs, but also created bugs of its own, including one now known as the "Blue Screen of Death," which occurs when, for example, users tried to format a floppy while scanning for viruses. Now Microsoft's Web site includes a series of bug fixes for the SP2 bug fix.

Some users have complained about Microsoft's new *Office 97* as well, suggesting that it, too, was rushed to market before it was ready.

Again, I don't mean to suggest that either Microsoft or Corel are any worse (or any better, for that matter) than their competitors. In any company, there's always friction between the marketing types and the engineers. The engineers want to keep working on the product—speed it up, add features, find still more bugs. The marketers, however, need a firm release date so they can place the ads, and make arrangements to get the boxes into the stores.

In fact, maybe our expectations for bug-free software are simply unrealistic.

You may not realize it, but the government sets minimum acceptable standards for the number of fly wings (and other fly-related substances) per ton of flour. They realize that in a less than perfect universe, it's impossible to demand no fly wings at all. If we have to put up with bugs in flour, we may need to accept software bugs, too, as just a fact of life.

What do you think? Are you paying for software that's not quite ready for prime time? Let me know at alan\_zisman@mindlink.bc.ca ♦

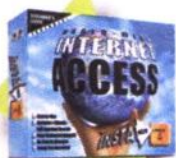


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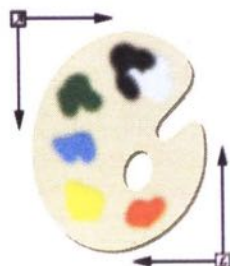
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# PC as appliance

• • By CHRISTOPHER GULY • •

For Microsoft Canada Inc. general manager Jeff Dossett, the future is written in C's: consumers, computers, and convergence.

At the recent Comdex PacRim computer

fair in Vancouver, Dossett said that he expects that PCs will become the consumer product of choice—much like VCRs and televisions dominated the market when they were introduced.

"We believe the personal computer is on

the verge of becoming the next mass medium," said Dossett, who also predicted PCs will become "appliances" that will join with television sets to become home-based entertainment centres.

"We absolutely foresee the time when the

personal computer in its various forms...will achieve 90 per cent penetration rate," he said.

Microsoft, of course, is doing everything it can to ensure that happens.

In mid-January, the Washington-based company began a 30-city world tour, which included stops in Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, to boost sales of *Office 97*, which Microsoft chairman Bill Gates unveiled at the Comdex show in Las Vegas last fall.

**"We believe the personal computer is on the verge of becoming the next mass medium,"**

Not that Gates needed the extra PR. Even before the suite went on sale, the company claimed it had received advance orders for 500,000 copies and had already sold 3 million copies of *Office 97* through corporate licensing agreements.

In tapping into convergence-based customer demand, Dossett said that Microsoft is touting *Office 97's* Net capabilities, which the company claims makes "it simple for

**"We believe it's very clear that the Internet has reached critical mass and that it's very much here to stay, despite some of the concerns that people have about its ability to evolve,"**

users to create hyperlinks, publish content on the Web in HTML or *Office* file formats, find *Office* or HTML documents on their organization's networks, and even edit *Office* documents live inside their Web browser."

"We believe it's very clear that the Internet has reached critical mass and that it's very much here to stay, despite some of the concerns that people have about its ability to evolve," said Dossett.

Last year, about 50 million people surfed the Net. By the year 2000, that number is expected to quadruple.

Based on such a heavily populated global Internet community, Dossett said that Microsoft will be adapting its Windows desktop layouts to look more like Web screens and will be developing a Net PC—equipped with a Pentium processor and hard disk—that Microsoft claims will offer more flexibility. ♦

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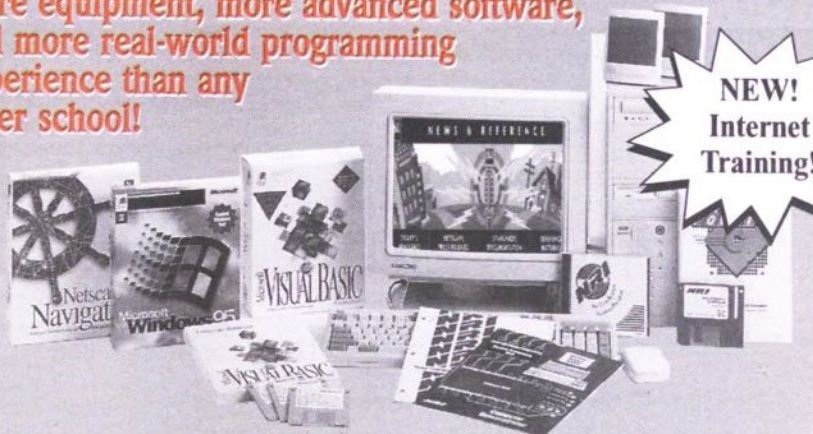
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- 1.44MB 3.5" FDD
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# The chip that does Mach-2

•• By PAUL ANGYAL ••

First there was a chip. Then came more chips. CISC and RISC followed. We have embraced the Pentium and congratulated the Pro that broke through the 200 MHz barrier. Having just released the MMX sub-chip for special multimedia flavour, Intel undoubtedly has the fastest turboprop.

Imagine now that somebody just dropped in with a jet that does Mach-2. This is exactly what happened when Exponential Technology Corp. of San Jose, California, announced its X704 chip for PowerPC-based computers at the recent Apple Developers' conference in San Francisco. Rated at 533 MHz, the chip is only the second to exceed the 500 MHz speed limit, after Digital's Alpha 21164. It delivers an impressive 13 SPECint95 versus the Pentium Pro's 8.09.

The X704 is compatible with the PowerPC 604 chip and fits existing designs, so it is no wonder that Gilbert Amelio, Apple's boss, welcomed it so warmly.

## How do they do that?

Exponential's chip uses a bipolar logic, combining super fast bipolar transistors in the logic circuits with economical CMOS in the memory cells. Bipolars are switching states by swinging between two intermediate voltages with a very small difference of only 0.5 Volt. In the case of CMOS, the switching is between minimum and maximum. The smaller the difference, the faster the clock speed.

The X704 holds 2.7 million transistors, about the same as the Intel 486 used to but less than half of the Pentium Pro's inventory. Seven hundred-thousand are bipolar. The manufacturing process is based on 0.5 micron, larger than the current state of the mainstream (0.35-micron). One explanation is that bipolar transistors are hotter, so one cannot pack them too tightly together. The other—and probably the real one—is that it is a less expensive process that will help the chip to make it to the market and be accepted faster.

The X704 is priced at US\$1,000, which is what we had to pay for the first Pentium in 1993. Computers built with them should start at US\$5,000-plus.

## Good news for Mac users

The Exponential chip is expected to appear in desktop computers (Macs and Mac clones) by the middle of 1997. It could easily become the chip of preference for high-end desktop publishing, image processing, animation, and multimedia, all very intensive computing tasks.

Motherboards of high-end PowerPC Macs, such as the 9500, have a slot for a daughter board. The X704 chip sits on one, so an upgrade will be a mere plug-in.

At the conference, the company also demonstrated the chip running on Windows NT 4.0. Rick Bergman, Exponential's press contact, was rather non-committal about the chip's future in that environment, however. ♦

# Porn scam dings thousands

World Wide Web surfers who looked forward to viewing lovely figures on their computer monitors have been left looking at the ugly figures at the bottom of their telephone bills.

•• By LEE LESTER ••

An RCMP computer-crime expert is investigating complaints from angry victims who are faced with having to pay their phone companies thousands of dollars. Worldwide, the total is expected to run into the millions. Duped surfers were dinged for sums ranging from as little as \$8 all the way up to \$6,000.

Visitors to the [www.sexygirls.com](http://www.sexygirls.com) site thought they were getting free pornographic pictures to download. To see them, however, they first had to download a viewer.

## It's a scam, comrade

In fact, the software concealed a Trojan horse, a program that hides itself inside another program. Unknown to the Web prowlers, it changed the settings on their machines. Each time they dialed up, instead of reaching their local Internet service providers, they were connected to a telephone number in the former Soviet republic of Moldova.

The "viewer" even turned off modem loudspeakers, so the unsuspecting surfers were unaware of what was happening. If the computer was left on, the charges kept mounting. Only by rebooting or completely shutting down the machine could the link be broken.

The scheme came to light when a surprised

Quebecker was confronted with a \$1,000 bill for one phone call. His complaint was quickly followed by hundreds of others from across the country.

From Victoria and Vancouver to Montreal and the Maritimes, they continue to pour in to telephone companies and the police. Bell Canada quickly received over 1,200 alone, and hundreds more went to AT&T and other phone companies in the United States.

Only the prairie provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan appear to be unaffected.

Montreal-based RCMP computer-crime unit Cpl. Marc Gosselin says many of those who downloaded the Trojan horse were youngsters, some as young as 12. Their parents learned of their behaviour when the inflated telephone bills began to arrive.

But some parents, says Gosselin, may be blaming their children when they actually made the calls themselves. The real number of those duped may never be known, as most are too embarrassed to complain.

One explanation of the alleged scam is that the phone company receiving the call takes a share of the costs generated by it. Phone companies in some countries have used it as a means of obtaining hard currency. ♦

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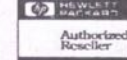


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ECC DIMM 32M/64M .....\$240/445  
INTEL MMX 166/200.....\$525/850  
AMD K5-75/100/133.....\$58/90/120  
Intel P5-100/120/133.....\$130/150/190  
Intel P5-150/166/200...\$245/390/650  
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Tyan S1470/dimm, 256k.....\$220  
TyanTomcat III/ Dual P5/512...\$340  
Intel Marl HX ATX,UPS/MMX...\$185  
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Intel Tucson HX ATX s16,MMX.\$245  
Intel 440FX Venus P6, ATX.....\$300  
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NEC P750 17" 1600.....\$1220  
Sony 100SX/SF 15".....\$530/610  
Sony 200SX/SF 17".....\$920/1090  
Viewsonic 17PS/GS.....\$950/830  
NEC P1150/Sony20SF...\$2680/1980  
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PCI 64 w/MPEG 1/2M.....\$40/60  
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NT 4.0 Workstation .....\$280

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# Storefront? What storefront?

•• By JUNE CAMPBELL ••

Who needs a storefront when you can use the Net? BC entrepreneurs are delving into cyberspace with gusto. From counselling to con-

doms to backhaul brokering, these "new frontierspersons" are peddling their goods and services electronically:

## Backhaul Network Inc.

E-mail: save@backhaulnet.com

WWW: <http://www.backhaulnet.com/>

This business brokers "backhaul" loads to long-distance truckers. The backhaul is that vital return trip, which can make or break a trucker economically. Mike Paterson of

Burnaby puts truckers in touch with suppliers, and does it all over the Internet. The idea was born in late 1996, when Paterson chatted with a trucker from Tennessee who was trying to pick up a load for his trip home. According to Paterson, response so far has been favourable.

## Bizresource.com

E-mail: [wendyweb@bizresource.com](mailto:wendyweb@bizresource.com)

WWW: <http://www.bizresource.com/>

With a site named by *The New York Times* as one of the best business-promotion sites on the Web, Abbotsford entrepreneur Wendy McClelland provides a cornucopia of services, including writing e-mail newsletters and news releases, and also has a number of "joint ventures" happening via e-mail. McClelland is best known as a motivational speaker and writer. Her newest accomplishment is the writing, hosting, and promotion of *Success Unlimited*, a cable-television show set to debut in February 1997.

## Condomville

E-mail: [Condomville@islandnet.com](mailto:Condomville@islandnet.com)

WWW: <http://www.islandnet.com/Condomville/>

Anita Roy, from NanOOSE Bay on Vancouver Island, has a brand new, unpromoted Internet venture that has already processed orders for specialty and regular condoms. When Roy decided to opt out of the rat race of office politics and commuting, she learned that sports and sex were the two most frequented Net destinations. The Condomville concept was created. Ten per cent of profits go to AIDS education and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

## Human Resource WWW Metacentre

E-mail: [vci@vciglobal.com](mailto:vci@vciglobal.com)

WWW: <http://mindlink.net/vci/>

This online human-resource centre started and remains a "virtual collaborative." Spokesperson Garfield Johnson reports that he has not physically met all of the members, and remarks "We originally did some business internationally and by e-mail even. The members do not all work on, or from, the initiative full time. Because it has not yet led to major portions of their businesses, it does not economically command more of their time." Johnson has long been a well known advocate of small business on the Internet.

## Nicheware Internet Solutions Inc.

E-mail: [info@nicheware.com](mailto:info@nicheware.com)

WWW: <http://www.nicheware.com/>

Eighteen months ago, Lynn Hauka of Sechelt, BC went online with ESR, an Internet marketing and research company. ESR's clients are a range of business, government, non-profit, and private organizations who wish to develop their Net presence. Last summer, Hauka teamed up with a software programmer to start a second online business, Nicheware Internet Solutions Inc. The premier product is "Siteline," a Web-site visitor-tracking program. Almost three weeks to the day after launch, Nicheware received its first order.

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- \* EIDE with 2X 16550, 1 Para Port
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- \* 13" Mini Tower Case
- \* 104 Windows 95 Keyboard
- \* Mouse & Pad

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- Modem/ Fax + \$130
- 33.6 S/R Voice
- Memory + \$100
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- Hard Drive + \$30
- 1.6GB (Mode 4)
- 2.1GB (Mode 4) + \$70
- Monitor + \$110
- 15" SVGA NI L/R .28dp
- Video + \$110
- ATI Mach 64 EDO 3D/2m
- Stealth 64 EDO 3D/2m + \$110
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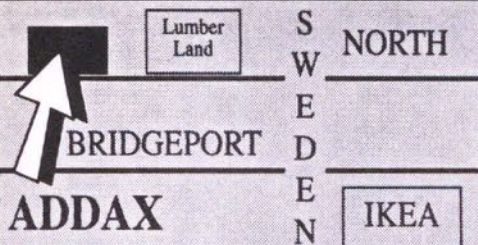
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15" Acula NI/LR/Digital/OSD Monitor  
Zoltrix 33.6 Voice Fax Modem  
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Win95 Keyboard  
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**Cyrix 6x86 P150+/P166+ \$948/1008**  
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• Fast I/O 4 EIDE & 1P/2x 16550 • 1.28G Hard Drive  
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• 64bit 1M PCI SVGA Video Card • 13" Case w/230W  
• 14" NI/LR SVGA Monitor • 3B Mouse & Pad

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8M→16M EDO .....\$41  
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14"→15" Monitor .....99  
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Samsung 17" Glsi .26DP .....1019  
MAG DX1795E 17" .28DP .....755  
MAG DX1795 17" .26DP .....835  
MAG DX700 17" .25DP .....950  
ViewSonic 15" GS .....509  
ViewSonic 17" PT770 .....998  
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ASUS T2P4 HX 256K PL .....192  
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Fast I/O, 4EIDE, 1P/2x16550, 4x72pin

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72pin 32M/EDO .....187/189  
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512K pipeline Cache .....40

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## Feature

### Storefront? What storefront?...

continued from page 34

#### Stitchhiker

E-mail: [achtner@netidea.com](mailto:achtner@netidea.com)

WWW: <http://www.netidea.com/~achtner/>  
Birthe Wilson Achtner, a fabric designer from the Kootenays, designs counted cross-stitch kits of Kootenay Heritage Buildings. Her kits reflect the beautiful heritage buildings common to Nelson and surrounding areas. Although sales so far have been primarily local, Achtner anticipates a wider market in coming months.

#### Therapy Online

E-mail: [therapy@deepcove.com](mailto:therapy@deepcove.com)

WWW: <http://www.deepcove.com/therapy/>  
Professional therapists Lawrence James of North Vancouver and Dan Mitchell of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, offer counselling services to the Internet community. Potential clients take a brief self-test to decide which of the two available services would be most beneficial. "Ask PAttY Q" (a professional answer to your question) is available for those who have a single question to ask. "Therape-mail" is available for those whose problems require a more in-depth response.

#### Vigilant Internet Services

E-mail: [maureen@vigilant.bc.ca](mailto:maureen@vigilant.bc.ca)

Maureen Kulak from the Lower Mainland reports that this family business offers a unique service: a customized search of newsgroups. The 1,000 subscribers worldwide receive auto-

matically e-mailed articles on subjects requested. This service is available free to subscribers.

#### Widening the scope

The trend isn't limited to BC. Here's a sampling of small, Internet-based business from across the nation:

#### Art à deux, Ltée (Art for 2)

E-mail: [artcards@premiumproducts.com](mailto:artcards@premiumproducts.com)

WWW: <http://www.pathcom.com/~gfx/>

Canadian fine-art greeting cards, originally designed for every occasion, from Barbara Sybal in Mississauga, Ontario

#### Call Mom Line, CML Publishing, and The Internet Organizer

E-mail: [callmom@mts.net](mailto:callmom@mts.net)

WWW: <http://www.mts.net/callmom/>

Phyllis Threinen of Dauphin, Manitoba, offers booklets, pamphlets, and an Internet Organizer.

#### The Secretary: Word Processing and Office Services

E-mail: [wordpros@inforamp.net](mailto:wordpros@inforamp.net)

WWW: <http://www.inforamp.net/~wordpros/>

Fiona K. Fars of Toronto provides e-mail management. E-mail messages are faxed back and forth and answered online.

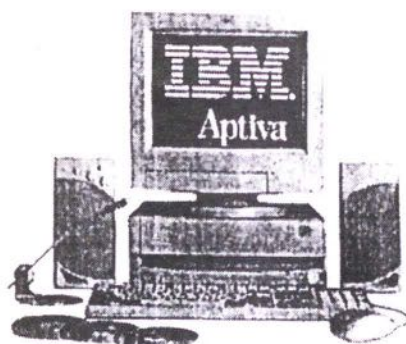
June Campbell is the owner of Nightcats Multimedia Productions. You can reach her by e-mail at [June\\_Campbell@mindlink.bc.ca](mailto:June_Campbell@mindlink.bc.ca) or by phoning (604) 980-3219 during business hours. ♦

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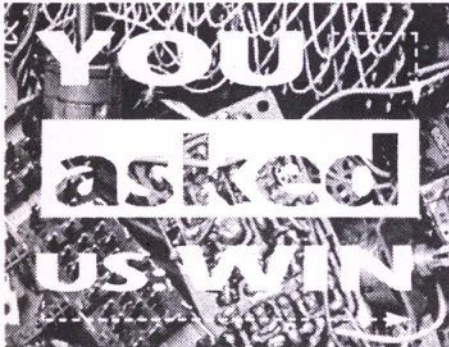
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# Cookie Crumbs



• By MYLES WHITE •

Last month's White's Bytes column about cookies drew numerous queries. We also received many suggested methods to prevent more from being stored on your hard drive (at least in Netscape Navigator), which we've now tested.

First, a recap: "Cookies"—AKA magic cookies, HTTP cookies, persistent cookies, and "persistent client state HTTP cookies"—are small text files that may be sent to your computer from an Internet Web site

without your permission. Cookies can be resident on your hard drive and sent back to the site the next time you visit or be sent back to the site immediately. In either event, they can transmit data that can be stored and analyzed—and that you may not want the site's owner(s) to know.

The solution to invoke the warning procedure offered by both Netscape Navigator 3.x and Internet Explorer 3.x is repeated here for those who missed it:

#### Netscape Navigator 3.x

1. Under the Options menu, choose Network Preferences.
2. Select the Protocols tab.
3. Click on the Accepting a Cookie checkbox, under Warn Before..., and hit Okay.

#### Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.x

1. Under the View menu, choose Options.
2. Select the Advanced tab.
3. Click on the Warn Before Accepting Cookies checkbox, and hit Apply.

Any time you visit a site offering a cookie, you'll be notified with a pop-up window and asked whether you want to accept it.

The procedure for finding, eliminating, and preventing cookies differs depending whether you're using Navigator or Explorer under Windows 95 or Navigator under Windows 3.1x.

continued on page 39

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# Don't forget that backup

• • By DAVID ROSEN • •

**Q** Dear Doctor: I think my kids have been playing with my Performa 6360 and now it doesn't want to boot. Of course, I don't have a backup system disk (yes, I know, I know), but I do have the original CD-ROM I got with the machine. The problem is that no matter what I try, the Performa still wants to boot from the hard drive, which, of course, is damaged. What do I do?

Signed: Brock via an ISP.

**A** Dear Brock: You've really got two problems here: the hard drive and the more long-term problem that your kids shouldn't be playing with your computer. Let's deal with the first problem, first.

As you mentioned in your e-mail, you should always keep a backup system floppy just in case these kinds of nasty situations occur. Many Mac utility programs (for example, Norton Utilities) let you make an emergency disk. I'm guessing the original disk that you're talking about is the System Installer CD that came with your Mac.

Apple's technical folks insist that if you just pop the System Installer CD into your Mac before you turn it on, your machine should boot off the CD automatically.

Sometimes, however, you have to give your Mac a helping hand. The solution is to use a couple of keyboard combinations to force it to boot from the CD-ROM drive. Holding down the "C" key as the computer starts up will tell the computer to start from the CD-ROM.

Alternatively, you can hold down the Command, Option, Shift, and Delete keys to bypass the hard drive. Your Performa should then start from the CD-ROM drive.

The second part of your predicament can be addressed by a security product such as Apple's At Ease. Designed to keep inquiring eyes (and fingers) away from both the Finder and the System, products such as At Ease create a protective layer for your Mac. Essentially, At Ease is an application that allows you to hide the Finder and limit access to your hard disk—it works in conjunction with your Finder, but doesn't replace it.

Once you install At Ease, you can pick and choose which applications or documents your kids will be able to access. At Ease creates individual windows for applications and documents. This way, your kids can't accidentally toss out important files, since they won't be able to "see" them in your Mac.

Don't forget that At Ease is not designed as a heavy-duty security product. Rather, At Ease will keep kids and non-technical adults

away from your important files. In the long term, encryption, frequent back-ups, and secure off-line storage are the only ways to ensure you keep your files safe and sound.

The Doctor

## Facing PC persecution

**Q** Dear Doctor: My boss is on one of his anti-Mac tirades and he says there's tons of PC-only software and hardware. How can I convince him that the Mac is still in the game?

Signed: Corinna via an ISP

**A** Dear Corinna: Tell your boss to check out the list of almost 2,000 products that are available only for Macintosh at <http://www2.apple.com/whymac/onlymac/>

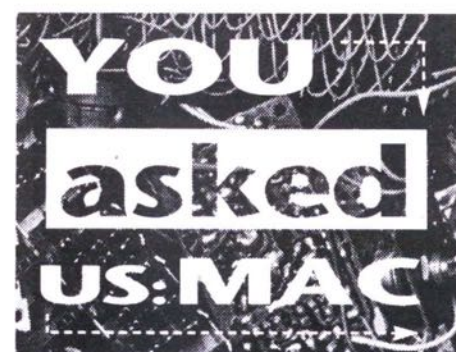
While you're at it, you might also want to tell him that independent research company Dataquest says that about two-thirds of all multimedia development is done on a Macintosh. As Freud would say, "so there!"

The Doctor

## New lens for QuickTake

**Q** Dear Doctor: I have an old QuickTake 100 and would like to use a close-up lens like the one included with the QuickTake 150. Can I buy the lens separately, and will it work for my camera?

Signed: Jennie via an ISP.



**A** Dear Jennie: Getting a close-up view on things, huh? Well, the close-up lens attachment you want is available as a service part from Apple (part number: 922-1371) for about Can\$70. The attachment works with both QuickTake 100 and QuickTake 150 cameras.

There are also a number of third-party companies that make close-up lenses for the QuickTake 100/150 series. Pick up a copy of Redgate's Macintosh Product Registry for a list of these companies. Although the directory has stopped publishing, you may still find a copy on the shelf at your local bookstore.

The Doctor.

You can reach MacShrink directly by sending your message to [MacShrink@aol.com](mailto:MacShrink@aol.com). Your last name and e-mail address will not be printed. Please note that due to the volume of mail, individual questions cannot be answered. All questions become the property of MacShrink™ and David Rosen. ♦

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## You Asked Us

### Cookie crumbs...

continued from page 37

#### Under Windows 95

**Navigator 3.x:** Using Windows Explorer, locate the COOKIES.TXT file in the *Navigator* folder (default location, c:\program files\netscape\navigator).

Double-click to open the file for editing (it will open under WordPad or Notepad, depending on how the TXT association is set in the Registry). Delete everything in the file except the first two lines (keep them as a reference). Save the file and exit the editor.

Again using Windows Explorer, select the COOKIES.TXT file by clicking on it once with the right (secondary) mouse button. Choose Properties from the menu displayed on screen. Check off the "Read Only" box found at the bottom of the Properties dialogue. Close the dialogue box.

Open *Navigator* and following the instructions above, reverse the process to "warn before accepting cookies," so that it does not warn you. Surf for a while.

View the COOKIES.TXT file from time to time to check its contents. You'll find that it is still empty.

Alternate method: Using Windows Explorer, delete COOKIES.TXT. In the same directory (i.e., c:\program files\netscape\navigator), choose File, New, Folder. Create a new folder called COOKIES.TXT (you can have a folder/sub-directory with an extension). Because *Navigator* is looking for the name, COOKIES.TXT, but finds a folder, not a file, it won't store anything in it.

Simply deleting COOKIES.TXT does nothing. *Navigator* will recreate the file next time you run it (which it cannot do if there is a folder of the same name).

Note: Neither of these methods prevents the type of cookie that enters your system, collects data, then is sent back to itself immediately. For these, you may still choose to leave the warning intact.

**Internet Explorer:** I couldn't find any way to prevent *Internet Explorer* from storing cookies, other than the warning option above. Cookies are kept in the subfolder, c:\windows\cookies. You can delete most files in this subfolder, but two DAT files will remain (MM256.DAT and MM2048.DAT). Even if you do delete them (you can if you restart your system in DOS mode), they will be recreated—along with the \cookies subfolder if you delete it, too—the next time you start *Internet Explorer*.

I've tried setting the \cookies subfolder to read only to see if this will prevent more cookies from being stored, but this has no effect.

#### Windows 3.1x

If you're using Windows 3.1x and *Navigator*, either drop out of Windows to DOS or open a DOS window. Locate the COOKIES.TXT file (probably in c:\netscape).

The following assumes your DOS utility files are stored in a directory named c:\dos and that your path statement doesn't lead to it. At the C:\> prompt, type cd \netscape, then hit ENTER.

Using the DOS editor, open the COOKIES.TXT file (type c:\dos\edit cookies.txt, then hit ENTER and note that there is a space between "edit" and "cookies.txt"). Delete everything except the first two lines. Save the file and exit the editor.

To change the file to read-only, type c:\dos\attrib +R cookies.txt. Hit ENTER.

Return to Windows. If you're using *Navigator*, no more cookies will be stored on your hard drive.

The same alternate method detailed above works here, too. Once in the Netscape directory, delete COOKIES.TXT (type del cookies.txt, then hit ENTER). Then create the COOKIES.TXT sub-directory (type md cookies.txt, then hit ENTER).

Versions of *Navigator* prior to 3.x don't provide the warning option, but there is now a version 3.x of *Navigator* for Windows 3.1x available at Netscape's Web site at <http://www.netscape.com/> ♦

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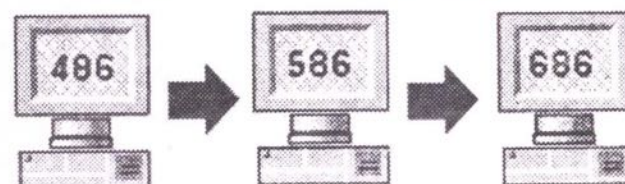
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# Spel chekker, pleez

**Q** How do I obtain the necessary files to enable spell-checking in EPM? The help for EPM says I need either OSLEXAM.DLL or LEXAM.DLL and US.DCT. Are these files freely available? Thanks for any information.

Chris

**A** Kevin Linfield responds: OS/2's Enhanced Editor (EPM) is one of the most powerful and complete editors available. And best of all, it is free for all licenced OS/2 users. The spell checker dictionary add-on is freely available from the Internet FTP site [bobbies.nmsu.edu](http://bobbies.nmsu.edu) in the /os2/editors directory.

## Gimme a transfer

**Q** I'm new to this stuff but I want to transfer files between OS/2 computers using a serial or parallel port cable. The method or program should have the capabilities to transfer multiple files and/or directories.

TIA, Jeff

**A** Kevin Linfield responds: There are at least three efficient and easy ways to do this. (1) You can buy the commercial program LinkRight and a parallel or serial cable and transfer files in a manner similar to LapLink. (2) Using a null modem cable and a terminal program (such as ZOC or HyperACCESS Lite) you can transfer files between the two PCs as if you were using your modem (of course, the null modem cable is MUCH faster!). (3) You can use a parallel port cable and install OS/2 peer-to-peer services (if you are running OS/2 Warp 4.0 or Warp Connect 3.0).

I've tried all three of these methods under a variety of operating systems and the best solution depends on how much you want to pay and how often you need to transfer files. If you need to transfer files on a regular basis, I'd recommend you try OS/2's peer-to-peer services. If cost and simplicity is a major factor, the null modem cable might be right for you.

## I'm registered, already!

**Q** After installing OS/2 Warp 4, I attempted to register my copy (like a good boy) using the online registration screen. I tried to use the Internet connection; it failed. I tried to use the modem connection; it failed. I eventually called up a real person and obtained a registration code that way. After entering the registration number, I thought I was finished, but the registration screen still comes up every few times a boot my system. Is there a way to make this go away?

Thanks, Steve

**A** Kevin Linfield responds: There are a number of ways to do this, but what I did was boot to the command prompt (ALT+F1 when the words OS/2 appear in the upper left of your screen, then F2 for command prompt) and delete (or move, or archive) the entire /OS2/ART directory. ART stands for Automatic Registration Tool and it does take up memory as it is always running (Tip: type PSTAT /C from the command prompt to get a list of all running processes).

## Trouble focussing

**Q** Can you make it so that PM apps that are starting don't take away the focus? I want to type in a telnet window and start some other application at the same time. The annoying thing is that the new apps comes up in front and takes the focus.

Brian

**A** Kevin Linfield responds: I'm sure thousands of OS/2 users would like a solution to this problem, but it is hardcoded into each program. Some programs (like ZOC) have a setting to toggle this feature, but the programs that let you do this are few and far between. What we need are OS/2 programmers who realize that most of us use the multitasking features of our favourite operating system. Sorry, but there is nothing you can do except contact the software manufacturer and complain.

Kevin Linfield is a consultant and freelance writer. He can be reached via e-mail at [linfield@torfree.net](mailto:linfield@torfree.net) ♦

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# Take a seat at the virtual Round Table



Tele-  
comments

Lynn Greiner

Business books are coming out of the woodwork these days, books that tell you how to run any aspect of any business. They're all buzzword-compliant, and often totally divorced from the real world—especially the world of the teleworker.

Jaclyn Kostner's book, *Virtual Leadership: Secrets from the Round Table for the Multi-Site Manager*, is different. It's all about teams that are geographically diverse. Yes, it's a book for managers, but every member of a virtual team should read it.

If you remember *The One Minute Manager*, you'll have an idea of the format of this book. It's the story of Jim Smith, despairing manager of a worldwide project team who is watching things fall apart around him. He has no idea of what's going wrong, or how he can fix it. To him a *virtual* work group means it's *virtually* impossible to get

hold of anyone, *virtually* impossible to create a sense of team—in fact, it's a *virtual* nightmare.

Then he receives a strange coin from a pay phone, and, through it, soon is put in touch with one of the great leaders of all time, the creator of Camelot, King Arthur. Schlocky? Maybe, but in his conversations with Arthur, Jim learns how to manage a scattered team by drawing lessons from Arthur's experiences in managing the Knights of the Round Table.

## From myth to mundane?

You see, when the knights weren't slaying dragons and performing other noble deeds, they lived in castles throughout the length and breadth of England. Arthur faced many of the same problems welding this diverse crew of individualists into a team that the modern manager wrestles with today.

Kostner uses Arthurian symbols like Excalibur, the Round Table, the Joust, Lancelot, Merlin, and, of course, Camelot itself, to illustrate the key concepts that make an effective manager of a virtual team. Members of such a team can also learn a lot by seeing the team through Arthurian eyes.

There's a chapter devoted to each concept. For example, Excalibur symbolizes trust—

the trust a team leader has in his or her members, and the trust members have in their leader, and in each other. Kostner points out that trust is the major motivating factor in getting team members to perform their roles wholeheartedly.

In Excalibur's chapter, Arthur describes what happened when he first became king over a bunch of squabbling, isolated, suspicious knights. His mentor, Merlin, turned him into a hen (remember T.H. White's *Sword in the Stone*?), and told him each of the three eggs he incubated symbolized one of the enemies of his leadership, which he would have to name and deal with. After a great deal of thought, Arthur correctly identified them as geography, isolation, and history.

## Bad things come in threes, too

These same three enemies threaten modern distributed teams, and, translating Arthurian techniques into current analogies, Jim discovers both how he is failing his team, and possible ways to help it. In later chapters, he learns how Arthur was able to leverage resources across a distance, unite people who rarely if ever meet, and use technology as a bridge, not a barrier. During those discussions, he translates the ideas

*Virtual Leadership: Secrets from the Round Table for the Multi-Site Manager*, by Jaclyn Kostner, PhD, from Warner Books. 1994. 0-446-67087-1. \$14.99. Visit <http://www.distance.com/> for more information.

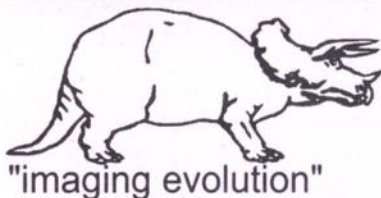
into something he could use with his modern "tele-knights."

The story is entertaining, and the book quite readable. I hauled it along on a transcontinental plane trip, intending to flip through and make notes, and ended up reading it from cover to cover.

Kostner knows whereof she speaks, too—she earned her PhD in virtual workgroup communication, developing her interest in virtual teams after participating in a highly successful one herself. Currently, she leads a virtual organization, Bridge the Distance International, that helps team members communicate and function over a distance.

*Virtual Leadership: Secrets from the Round Table for the Multi-Site Manager* is a book for team leader and member alike. It's even valuable for those who work on their own, but who need to nurture relationships with suppliers and clients. ♦

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# New horizons loom for rural ISP



**New  
Business**

Paul Lima

**M**arsha Corey and Tom Eldridge met on the Internet. They were both newbies, and it was love at first chat. Still, there was a problem: he lived in Vancouver, and she lived in Toronto.

Two months later, they met half-way, in Winnipeg, to "confirm that we were in love," says Corey. Six months later, Eldridge quit his

job with the Body Works and moved to Toronto. A year later, he proposed, and Corey accepted. They will be married in September.

But this is a business column. What's an online love story doing here?

Corey and Eldridge had many things in common—their love, their passion for the Internet, computer knowledge, a desire to run a business, and a belief in the importance of small communities. They have turned all that into a growing Internet service they run in a small community in eastern Ontario.

Soon after Eldridge moved to Toronto, he and Corey set up a Web-site design company. Corey kept her full-time job as a computer programmer with an Ontario government ministry, but worked on the business in her spare time.

## Seeing the need

While promoting their business at a trade show in Corey's hometown of Napanee, Ontario (between Kingston and Belleville), they realized rural Ontario was very much deprived of Internet access.

"Almost everybody who dropped by our booth asked us if we provided an Internet hook-up service," says Corey.

Since running an Internet service was something that interested them, they took the plunge and opened Internet Horizons Inc., an Internet service provider (ISP) in Napanee.

"Instead of basing our business in a city, where we probably would have been making much more money, we went rural instead," said Corey.

Eldridge moved to Napanee to run the business and provide technical support to customers. Corey kept her job in Toronto but, evenings and weekends, she uses e-mail, file transfer protocol software, the fax machine, and long-distance conference calls to contribute to the business.

"It's amazing what you can do with technology," she says.

What she does in Toronto, for the business in Napanee, is design Web pages, create documentation for new users, and update the Internet Horizons Web site and links page.

## Deja vu all over again

While Napanee is closer to Toronto than Vancouver, the irony of their situation—

they're into a long-distance romance once again—hasn't escaped her.

"We miss each other a lot," says Corey. "But the business has had a great response."

They set up a storefront in Napanee's only mall and augment their ISP business by selling and repairing computers. In less than three months, 2,000 people trooped through the store to see what the new business was all about.

"I'd say in a town of 5,000, we're doing pretty good," says Corey.

Internet Horizons now has over 100 paid customers. In addition, many people visit the store to surf the Web for \$5 an hour. Others have purchased e-mail accounts and drop in on a regular basis to check their e-mail.

While the company isn't earning enough yet to allow Corey to quit her day job, they have hired an employee. In addition, they have three volunteers helping out. People are willing to lend a hand because Internet Horizons is a community-based business, not a WalMart, McDonalds, or Sympatico. And Internet Horizons is true to its small-town roots.

"We even make free house calls to people having problems installing software or having problems figuring out how to access the Net," says Corey.

Internet Horizons has also integrated itself with the community by offering a community BBS: there are plans in the works to feature local chats with the mayor and other area officials. The company also offers low-cost training sessions to help people learn about computers, and has set up a Rural Ontario Directory Web site that links to other rural community sites.

"We feel the Net is an experience that shouldn't be accessible to city-dwellers only," says Corey. "Eventually, we plan on expanding our Internet service to other rural areas, perhaps farther north."

While Corey does not expect the business to make her rich, she hopes the company will grow to the point where it can support both her and Eldridge. Otherwise, come September, their long-distance romance will become a long-distance marriage.

Visit the Internet Horizons Web site at <http://www.ihorizons.net/>

Paul Lima (tiko@direct.com) is a freelance writer specializing in high-tech and communication issues ♦

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## Small-business accounting packages: A quick peek

•• By LEE LESTER ••

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continued on page 44

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**Small business accounting...**  
continued from page 43

month. And online graphical help bears out BestWare's repeated claim that accountancy jargon-free M.Y.O.B. is easy, easy, easy. Another welcome feature is that a free, limited-use trial version is available on BestWare's website.

**Proudly Canadian**  
The product is completely Canadianized—"You deserve more than a maple leaf on the box," says BestWare—and comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

**Peachtree Accounting for Windows** will appear to growth-oriented businesses that want to cut costs. One site licence means extra licences don't have to be bought as a small firm expands.

Managing employee costs becomes much more controllable with up to ten pay rates—hourly, weekly, overtime, etc.—being available. Users can also receive alerts when credit or expense balances go over set limits. There's even a graphical tool for automated collection and reminder letters for accounts receivable.

**Peachtree First Accounting** is a far simpler accountancy tool with minimal capabilities.

**Simply Accounting** lives up to its name by even providing a workbook and accounting manual for beginners. Transactions are started by just dragging a ledger or journal button to a tool button. Storage of last year's records enable upward or downward trends to be quickly spotted and two periods within the same year can be compared.


The security-minded will like the numbered general journal, which provides a full audit trail. Sales and purchase entries automatically update inventory records. Despite its name, the program is not that simple. It even provides project costing with detailed profit and loss reports for each job.

**Choices, choices**  
All four are good, comprehensive products. But a word of advice: don't just go with the one recommended by your accountant. If the one you feel most comfortable with meets your needs and the legal requirements, that's the one to go with. ♦

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# Personal money management

• • By MYLES WHITE • •

**T**he number of players in most computer-software fields has narrowed over the years. Personal money-management programs, also known as home-chequebook managers, are no exception.

From a handful of choices in the long-ago, we are, for all intents and purposes, down to two choices in the PC/Windows 95 environment, and just one for Mac and Windows 3.1x users.

Although Microsoft's *Money 97* for Windows 95 has more banks lined up for direct online access in the United States, Intuit's *Quicken* still dominates both US and Canadian markets among computerized chequebook users. And, the last time I counted, *Quicken* had the ear of more Canadian financial institutions offering either Internet or proprietary online schemes as well. It's also the only product with versions for both Windows 3.1 and Mac.

## Fair exchange

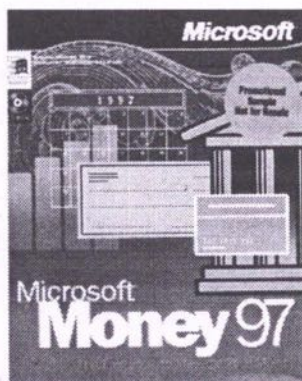
One of the other main deciding factors you'd use to choose one of these products may soon be irrelevant, however. In late January, Microsoft Canada and Intuit Canada announced the creation of a single, unified technical specification, called Open Financial Exchange, that will enable financial institutions to exchange financial data over the Internet with Web users and users of either *Quicken* or *Money*. The Open Financial Exchange specification is the convergence of Microsoft's Open Financial Connectivity and Intuit's OpenExchange.

Open Financial Exchange was developed in concert with financial services companies in response to their desires for a simplified method for exchanging financial data. The unified specification will streamline the process financial institutions need to go through to connect to multiple customer interfaces, processors, and systems integrators.

While this won't mean a major change immediately in how you access your bank account(s), eventually, it could streamline consumer and small business banking; consumer and small-business bill payment, and investments, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. The companies eventually plan to add other financial services including financial planning, insurance, and tax preparation and filing.

It could also bring services not yet available in Canada, such as CheckFree and online management of credit-card accounts with Visa and MasterCard.

In the meantime, however, Canadian users of chequebook management software have an even simpler choice to make between *Money* and *Quicken*. At present, *Money* still doesn't support Canadian interest or tax structures. There is no mention of GST, PST, or paystub deductions such as Canada Pension Plan (CPP) or Unemployment Insurance (UIC)—nor does it calculate interest rates for amortization based on the Canadian formula.



*Quicken*, on the other hand, if you've changed your International settings in Windows to Canada, automatically installs the Canadian version with all of these items and more.

If you look at *Money 97*, the first thing it reminds you of is *Quicken 5* for Windows. There's a central home page with large, friendly buttons designed to take you to the appropriate section. Once under this interface, however, you soon realize that *Money's* similarity to *Quicken 5* is mostly skin deep. Yes, you can open *Quicken 5* files seamlessly without having to convert to the awful QIC file format to import each account, but detailed reports and graphs of expenses are gone. There are graphs, but I could find no way to make them as detailed as *Quicken's*.

Oh, and by the way, if you've already converted to *Quicken 6*, don't try to open the new file format in *Money*. You'll break it.

You liked *Quicken's* blank "cheque" form to use for inputting expenses? Forget it. You'll get a dialogue box and like it.

*Quicken 6 Deluxe* (the version I tested) presents a much simpler interface than *Quicken 5*. In this case, the home screen, with its big buttons, is gone. Instead, across the bottom of the screen is a live toolbar. Wave the cursor over one of the icons and everything you can do pops on screen. New

to *Quicken*? Leave the automatic tutor turned on. If you have a sound card, each operation will be accompanied by verbal instructions offering hints on how to do what you need to do.

There are new colours in the *Quicken* palette, too. The garish pastels are gone, replaced by account colour-coding that is much more pleasing (to my eye, at least).

## No robbery

Last, but not least, you'll find one new routine that could change your life. Called Debt Reduction, it's a module available only in the Deluxe version that will examine your expenses and regular payments, then suggest a payment schedule that takes into account the rate of interest you'll pay on each, as well as the speediest way to get everything paid off (and leave you with a couple of bucks to see a movie when you're done).

My choice for 1997? *Quicken 6*. ♦

## info box

*Money 97*, from Microsoft. Win95. \$44.95. Free demo version available for download from <http://www.microsoft.com/>

For more information, contact 1-800-563-9048 (Info); 1-800-933-4750 (sales); (905) 568-0434.

*Quicken 6*, from Intuit. Win95, Win 3.1x, or Mac. \$39.95 (\$59.95 Deluxe).

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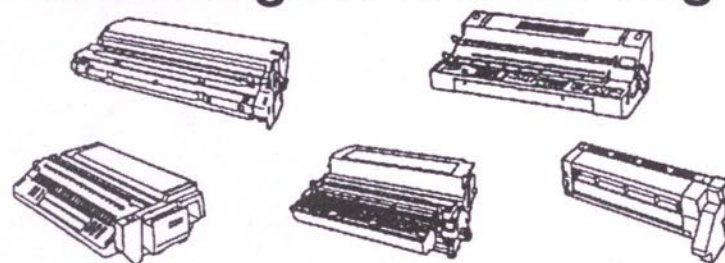
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# PC palmtops:

## Keeping your ducks in a row

• • By LYNN GREINER • •

**P**ersonal Digital Assistants (PDAs) come in all sizes and shapes, from simple organizers to full-fledged little computers. The latter, christened

Handheld Personal Computers—HPCs—by marketers eager to differentiate them from “mere” organizers, run a Windows 95-like operating system called Windows CE (see sidebar on page 50) that looks and acts more or less like a full-sized PC’s operating system.

We gathered a herd of these little beasts, ranging from an inexpensive equivalent to a Day-Timer to units that do almost everything a notebook computer can, and put them through their paces. How? By tucking one into a pocket and seeing if it can, indeed, keep a reviewer’s chaotic life on track.

The first thing we discovered was that, in most cases, a pocket isn’t big enough. Some of these electronic wonders must live in a fairly substantial purse (or a briefcase). Three notable exceptions were the USRobotics Pilot, which

was designed to fit into a man’s shirt pocket, the Psion Siena, and TI’s slim, light PS-6960Si organizer.

Since all of the units operate on batteries, and batteries have a nasty habit of running down, backup is important. We chose PDAs that can be backed up to a PC in some manner.

For input, most of our machines had keyboards of some description. The sole exception, the Pilot, relies on pen-based character recognition, or replication from a PC. Although all machines had the basic appointment management, phone/address lists, task lists and notepads of some sort, the level of additional functionality varied.

This is the biggest factor affecting a purchase decision—what do you need the thing to do?

If you just want to keep your appointments in order, you’ll choose differently than someone who wants to use their PDA as a mini notebook computer. So, read on—there’s something for everyone here.

### Review on the go

The Casio Cassiopeia and Compaq PC Companion

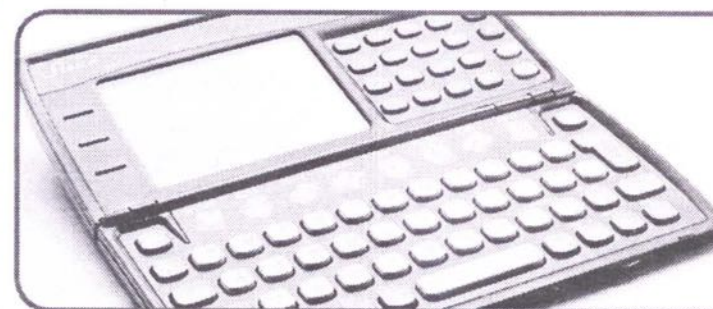
are roughly the same unit, with some cosmetic differences. Each is offered in two configurations: 2 MB RAM, and 4 MB. We had one of each—the Compaq was a 4 MB machine, while the Casio was the 2 MB flavour.

These are Windows CE machines, with monochrome grayscale LCD displays that can be difficult to read in poor lighting, even with the built-in backlight. Contrast may be adjusted with a thumbwheel on the left side of the cover. Beneath the wheel, there’s a light that flashes when an alarm has been triggered, so even if you miss the sound (which is faint, even with the volume at full), you have an indication that something needs attention. A button on the front of the unit resets the light without opening the cover.

A stylus slides into an enclosure at the right front, and although the end is fully exposed, even when the case is closed, it seats firmly. A single Type II PC Card slot contains a plastic

filler when it’s unoccupied, and has a lock to prevent accidental card ejection. As well, these two machines have connections for future digital-camera input. The synchronization connection (a serial port with a special plug) has a plastic cover that slides up into the case when not needed.

Surprisingly, the keyboards, though small,



Psion Siena

are actually fit to type on if you have small fingers and short nails. A few keys are in odd places—TAB is one row lower than expected, for example, and the right shift key is to the right of PgUp instead of to its left.

continued on page 49

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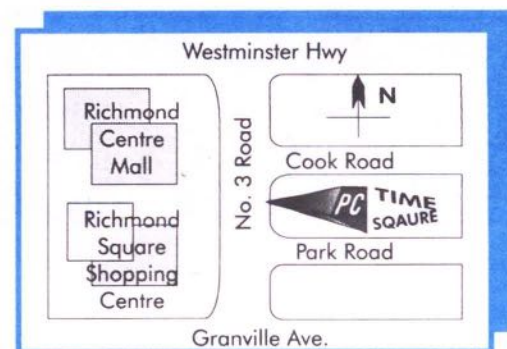


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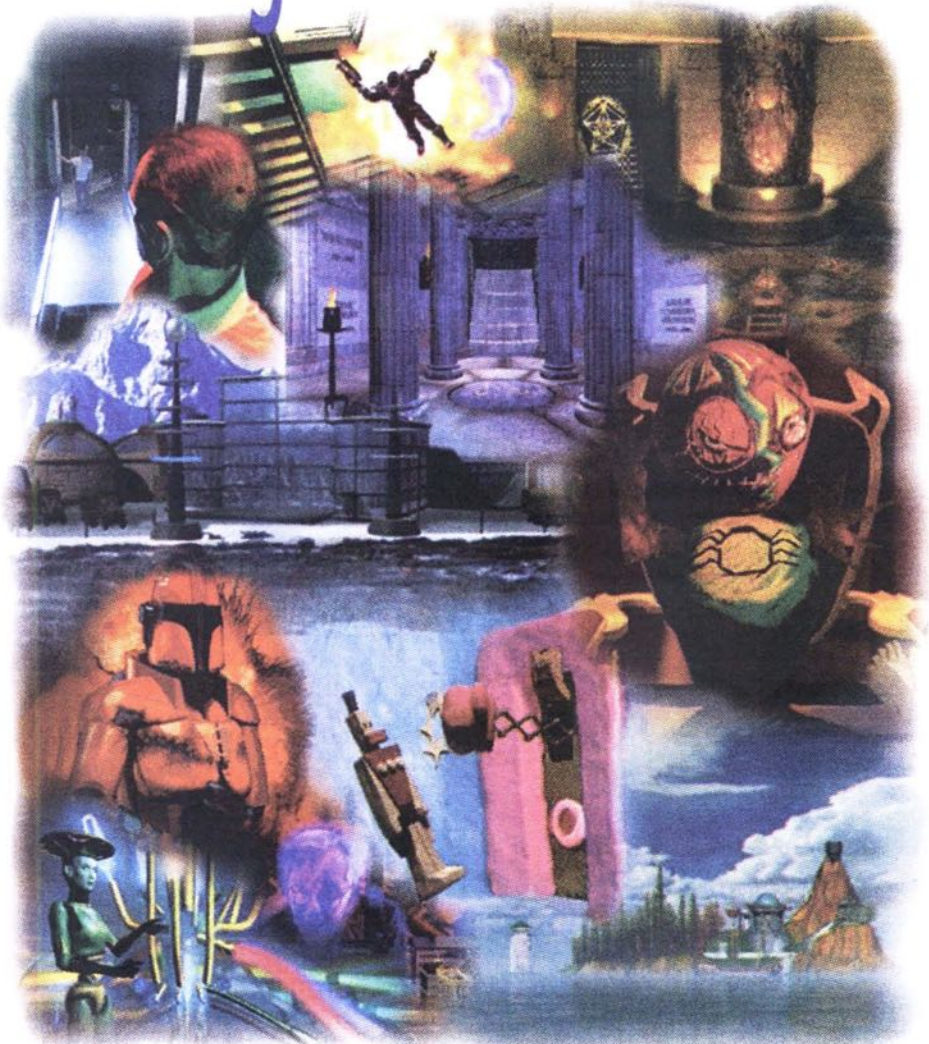
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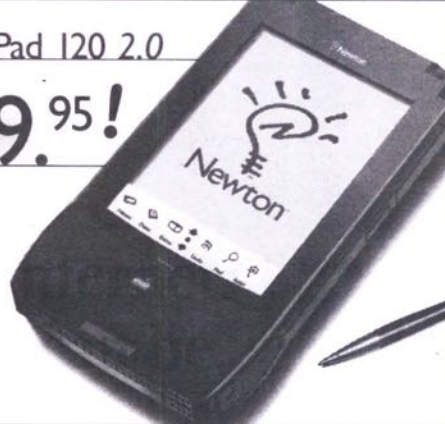
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## PC palmtops: Keeping your ...

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Hewlett Packard's OmniGo 120 can accept input from either keyboard or stylus. The OmniGo understands a stylized handwritten character set called Graffiti, and translates it into text with amazing accuracy. There's also a keyboard, although its touch is not conducive to typing—rather, you bash away with two fingers. The keys are well-spaced, at any rate. The OmniGo also accepts "digital ink," which simply stores the image of your scrawl as a graphic—perfect for maps and diagrams.

The display is a square LCD, somewhat brighter than the original OmniGo 100's, but still not backlit. It uses what HP calls "holographic" technology to impart a greenish reflected light to the screen. The OmniGo's biggest plus is in the clever way its cover folds back so you can hold the unit in one hand, like a notepad, rotate the display (that's the reason it's square), and use the machine comfortably.

The OmniGo uses the GEOS operating system, and offers a good collection of applications in addition to the basics, including a database, financial software, spreadsheet, notepad, and Solitaire. Its synchronization software and cable (an \$85 option) work well, although the process gobbles battery power.

### That special feeling

NEC MobilePro 400 is the third Windows CE machine we played with. Its screen is marginally smaller than that of the Casio/Compaq

twins, and it has no backlight. On the plus side, its stylus is parked so that the end is protected when the case is closed, and its keyboard, with flat, rubbery keys, has a more distinct touch than that of the other CE machines.

The MobilePro has one PC Card slot with a hinged cover (no plastic doodad to lose), and its cable connector is protected by a rubber cover that fits neatly into a recess on the bottom of the case when not in use. The alarm light is incorporated into the power switch, which is accessible when the case is closed, and an infrared port is on the back.

Psion Siena 512K has a unique pop-up cover that protects the infrared port and serial connection when the machine is closed. When it's open, the cover lies flat, so the display is only slightly tilted by the pop-up.

The Siena has a separate numeric keyboard, beside the small, rectangular screen, and an alpha keyboard below. There are also buttons to activate the applications: a cardfile database, a text processor, a calendar/appointment

book with task list, calculator, spreadsheet, alarms, and world clock. Typing, practically speaking, is a two-finger exercise, since the keyboard is so tiny.

The infrared port can exchange data with another Siena, and the unit can output to a limited list of common (if older) printers. There's even a simple programming language.

### The Sharp edge?

Sharp Zaurus ZR-3000 and Sharp Zaurus ZR-5800 are birds of a feather. The 5800, says Sharp, is the unit for someone who wants ultimate flexibility, while the 3000 is a newer, more turnkey system with integrated e-mail and PC connectivity.

Like the Windows CE machines, the 3000 integrates with Windows 95, and is actually ahead of the game in that it does inter-operate with *Word 7.0* and *Excel 7.0*. Its scheduler talks to *Schedule+ 7.0*, *ACT! 2.0*, *Lotus Organizer 97*, and *Goldmine 95*. There's a built-in CompuServe client, as well as fax

Unit	Display	Backlit	A/C adapter	Batteries	Size (in.)	Weight	IrDA	Serial Conn	PC Card	PC Conn.
Compaq	480x240	Y	opt.	2 x AA	6.3x3.6x1	13.4 oz	Y	Y	Y	Y
Casio	480x240	Y	opt.	2 x AA	6.3x3.6x1	13.4 oz	Y	Y	Y	Y
OmniGo	240x240	N	n/a	2 x AA	6x3.7x1	11.7 oz	N	Y	Y	opt.
NEC	480x240	N	incl.	2 x AA	6.9x3.8x1	13.6 oz	Y	Y	Y	Y
Psion	240x160	N	n/a	2 x AAA	5.9x2.7x.7	180 g	Y	Y	N	opt.
ZR-3000	320x240	N	opt.	2 x AA	6.3x3.6x.9	8 oz	Y	Y	N	Y
ZR-5800	320x240	Y	opt.	2 x AA	6.7x3.9x1	13.8 oz	Y	Y	Y	opt.
T.I.	6 line x 24 char.	Y	n/a	2 x 2032	5.2x3.6x.6	4.8 oz	N	N	N	Y
Pilot	160x160	N	n/a	2 x AAA	4.7x3.2x.7	5.7 oz	N	N	N	Y

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 Hewlett Packard OmniGo 120. \$602. Contact: 1-800-443-1254 or <http://www.hp.com/handheld/>  
 NEC MobilePro 400. \$949. Contact: <http://www.nec.com/>  
 Psion Siena. \$349 (512 KB model), \$419 (1 MB). Contact: 1-800-361-0609 or <http://www.psion.com/>  
 Sharp ZR-3000. \$549. Contact: 1-800-567-4277 or <http://www.sharp-usa.com/zaurus/>  
 Sharp ZR-5800. \$699. Contact: 1-800-567-4277 or <http://www.sharp-usa.com/zaurus/>  
 Texas Instruments PS-6965SI. \$239. Contact: 1-800-842-2737 or <http://www.ti.com/>  
 USRobotics Pilot 5000. \$499. Contact: 1-800-891-6342 or <http://www.usrobotics.com/palm/>

software, but you must add a special modem.

The Zaurus models accept keyboard input, or digital ink from the included stylus, but do not have any sort of handwriting recognition. The keys are very large, and I found them difficult to type on accurately because of the wide spacing.

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## PC palmtops: Keeping your ...

continued from page 49

Texas Instruments PS-6965Si is a basic organizer, with appointments, alarms, addresses, and notes. It doesn't try to be anything else. The display is all upper case, in chunky, readable characters on a 24-character by 6-line screen, and features an Indiglo backlight like the one on your faithful Timex watch. The unit

is super-slim, weighing in at just under 5 ounces. The 6965Si package includes the organizer, plus synchronization package for a PC of any vintage running Windows 3.1 or better.

USRobotics Pilot 5000 has created a stir with its elegant functionality since it was introduced last year. It's a keyboardless unit that fits into a shirt pocket, and accepts input via stylus using Graffiti. There are four basic applications: appointments, To Do, notes, and

phone/address list, plus a simple calculator. Heavy data entry can be accomplished on a Windows PC, with the supplied software, or with any of the several PIMs (*Lotus Organizer*, *ACT!*, or *Day-Timer*, to name a few) that interface with the Pilot using optional software.

Entries can be categorized, so you can have separate business and personal To Do lists and display them on their own or together. The cal-

endar is simple, only offering day or week views. To transfer data to or from a PC, all you need to do is sit the unit in its cradle and push a single button.

### Canada Computes! Reviewer's Choice

For a full-function handheld computer, the Windows CE machines fill the bill relatively well, as long as you have a Windows 95 machine to synchronize with. Of the three we tried, the NEC MobilePro 400 offers the best value, since it includes the A/C adapter and cradle in the box.

If all you need is a basic machine, I'm partial to the Pilot, with its convenient size, simple interface, and one-button synchronization. ♦

## Windows CE:

### A mini OS for palmtops

Microsoft's Windows CE operating system was designed for the new generation of palmtop computers. It looks like Windows 95, with a little taskbar, a little Start button, and a desktop with a few key productivity applications living on it. Palmtops are mouseless, so Windows CE relies on touchscreen technology for its pointer control. To right-click, you hold the ALT key while tapping with the stylus. Built-in apps include *Pocket Word*, *Pocket Excel*, a calendar, task list, contact list, and, of course, *Solitaire*. The Windows CE CD that comes with the systems lets you add *Pocket Internet Explorer*.

Documents can be used by the equivalent desktop software by dragging them from the HPC Explorer window (the Windows 95 interface to the HPC) to a folder, and files created on the desktop PC can be moved to the HPC; CE files will be automatically converted to Word 6.0 or Excel 5.0 documents, and returned to Pocket format when they're dragged back. Beware of Office 97, though—its Word 6 conversion is flawed, and the HPC won't recognize it when you drag the document back to HPC Explorer. Fortunately, it seems to understand Word 7 format.

The Pocket apps are very lite versions—*Pocket Word* is more like the WordPad text editor than a word processor—but they're functional. The contacts, task list, and appointments are compatible with *Microsoft Schedule+*—there's even a version on the Windows CE CD, in case you don't have it. *Outlook* users are out of luck, so far.

Windows CE knows nothing of printing. You must move a document to your desktop PC and print from there. CE can synchronize files with your desktop machine, or exchange contacts with another HPC via an infrared link, or communicate via modem or hard-wired connection (there's terminal emulation available, as well as *Internet Explorer*).

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## Growing pains...

continued from page 22

Given this, the Internet seemed like science fiction to most Egyptians only five years ago. Then the government opened a free Internet service provider in early 1993. It was primarily designed to serve businesses, and was oversubscribed almost immediately. Three years later, the government increased the bandwidth of its fibre-optic link to Europe from 64 KB to 2 MB and finally opened the market to private service providers.

Now Egypt has one of the fastest growing rates of Internet use in the world. In the past year, no less than 18 new service providers opened for business, and the government has doubled its capacity with a new 2 MB satellite link to the United States.

Perhaps even more amazing for those of us who have lived here for a while is the permissive stance of the government towards the new technology. While the media and foreign films are regularly censored, the Internet is entirely free of official interference. Whether or not this will continue is a burning question. In January, more than 100 alleged "devil worshippers," mostly the sons and daughters of prominent citizens, were arrested for insulting religion, a crime punishable by up to three years in jail.

While the so-called Satanists appear to be little more than a bunch of bored teenagers aping foreign fashions, Egyptian society is very conservative and many are blaming the Internet for corrupting the nation's youth. A committee has been formed to look into the matter and some are asking if it could be the first step towards monitoring the Net.

Most officials and Net enthusiasts here don't believe this will happen. They point to what they see as interference of a different kind as the main constraint on the spread of the Internet in Egypt: the continued state ownership of the telephone system. For although a baby born today would not have to wait until its thirtieth birthday for a phone line, it would still have to wait two months and pay hundreds of dollars before it could plug in its modem.

Siona Jenkins has been based in Cairo for eight years. She is a freelance writer for several publications including the *Irish Times* and the *Washington Times*. ♦

## Egypt Web sites:

While Egypt may have come late to the world of the Internet, there is no shortage of Web sites related to things Egyptian.

<http://pharos.bu.edu/egypt/home.html>

An Egypt WWW index that covers 18 topics, each with links to other related fields. Those planning to travel to Egypt should click on the travel section.

<http://www.travelfile.com/go/egypt.html>

"Travel file: Destination Egypt" has a wealth of information and links to other relevant sites.

<http://www.desk.nl/~pdenijs/faraos.html>

Another fascinating—if somewhat morbid, site—which shows digital representations of the mummified remains of 16 ancient Egyptian royals.

<http://pharos.bu.edu/Egypt/access.html>

Detailed information about Internet access in Egypt; very useful for those who plan to visit and want to stay connected.

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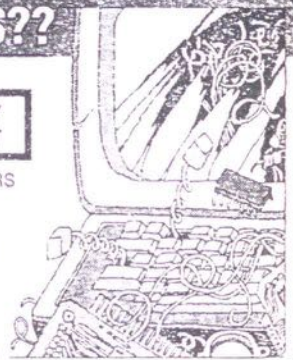
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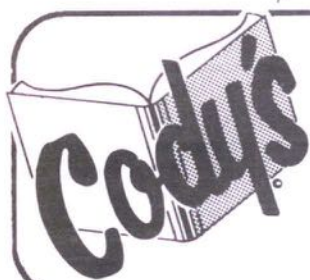
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# Internet

## 上的語音世界

作者：林啓清 (JimLin)

### 一、前言

由於社會的進步，人與人之間的互動也有了很顯著的改變？

像以前，人與人是靠信件來與遠端的親友聯絡。慢慢的，由於電話的發明，人與人的感情聯繫就轉由細細的兩條電話線在負責。

尤其是遠在各地的移民或遊客，電話更是不可或缺的生活必需品？

國際電話費或長途電話費幾乎成了日間的開銷，真是讓人又愛又恨(愛的是電話的方便性，恨的是電話費對荷包的大大傷感力)。

在談InternetPhone之前，先介紹幾個目前常見的InternetPhone軟體，讀者們可以先連過去將軟體給傳回來.....)

- 1) 網址：<http://magenta.com>  
名稱：CyberPhone

這個軟體除了具備一般的InternetPhone功能之外，還具有點對點的交談功能。在通訊效果不良時，也可以採用文字模式的打字交談來彌補！

功能很實在，但是畫面設計就不是很講究了？

- 2) 網址：<http://www.freetelco.com>  
名稱：FreeTel

這個軟體是一個很簡單的InternetPhone軟體，可以玩玩。

- 3) 網址：<http://www.itelcom.com>  
名稱：WebPhone

這個軟體除了具備一般的InternetPhone功能之外，只支援點對點的交談功能，無法像VocalTec公司所設計的iPhone一樣，能自由去找不認識的人聊天。

不過，有用過的人都會豎起大拇指說棒.....)

因為，除了畫面(就是一支Motorola行動電話的畫面)漂亮之外，聲音清晰程度也是其它軟體所比不上的？

- 4) 網址：<http://dsp.ee.cuhk.edu.hk/proj/icalld1.html>  
名稱：InternetCall

這個軟體是一個簡單好用的InternetPhone，只具有點對點的交談功能。功能非簡陋，但實用。

- 5) 網址：<http://www.fpg.com>  
名稱：RoundTable

這個軟體具備一般的InternetPhone功能，但由於Server只有一部，有時候連接會有點困難？並無特殊超強功能，可以試玩看看？

- 6) 網址：<http://www.fourmilab.cn>  
名稱：SpeakFreely

這個軟體除了具備一般的

InternetPhone功能之外，還支援多種語音編碼，功能很多。還可以將自己的照片放在程式裡面，與您交談的對方就可以看到您的玉照(小心不要隨便嚇人)。可以同時接聽多人的電話，但同一時間只能與其中一人講話。

- 7) 網址：<http://www.vocaltec.com>  
名稱：InternetPhone

這個軟體幾乎可說是InternetPhone的龍頭老大(就好像是NetScape的地位一樣)，在InternetPhone市場佔有率高達80%以上，是個極為強悍的程式。在Windows 3.1的最新版為V.3.2，Windows95則為V.4.0。

4.0版除了支援原有3.2版的所有功能之外，還具有文字交談、繪圖白板(WhiteBoard)、語音信箱、語音留言、圖形即時傳輸等功能。

3.2版在市面上可以很容易找到破解版(如果您不想花錢買的話)，至於4.0只有日期限制，但沒有功能限制，所以過期後，只要重新去抓一個新版的就可以了，除非您找到破解版？

目前4.5版也已經開始提供試用，這一版尚提供視訊的功能，可以進行即時的影像會議。

筆者建議您iPhone是一定要下去Download，其他的軟體您可以視情形選擇性的抓回來玩玩看？

### 二、iPhone的使用技巧

- 1) 等等我

如果您所使用的聲霸卡(Sound Card)是半雙工(Half Duplex)，又恰好遇到對方是使用全雙工(Full Duplex)的卡且背景雜音很大，您可只能當聽眾囉？因為半雙工的卡只能一次做一件事(講或聽)，所以一旦對方開始講(沒有停)您就只能聽的份，必須要等到對方不講任何話(或聲音)，才會輪到您開講.....)

而如果有以下幾個情形，也可能造成您當聽眾：

- 1) 對方麥克風靈敏度太高
- 2) iPhone的麥克風啟動點設太低
- 3) 對方的背景雜音太高
- 4) 上面三點同時存在兩點或三點同時存在(好慘)

遇到這個問題怎麼辦？如果對方是生手，您只有認栽(當聽眾)，如果是老手，您看看能否設法在對方的講話空隙中插進一句等一下吧？

所以，想用InternetPhone，先換片全雙工的卡吧！

有些卡號稱是全雙工的卡，但是卻沒有雙工的效果，讀者的眼睛必須要睜亮哦？

- 2) 禮貌乎

我們知道InternetPhone是透過Internet來講話的一種軟體，所以當以下幾個變數有所變化時，都會造成通話兩端停止通話：

- 1) 與ISP間的連線中斷(可能是電話線路或數據機有問題)
- 2) iPhone的Server故障
- 3) 某一方使用試用版(3.2版以前)的iPhone時間已到
- 4) 其他不明原因

既然變數這麼多，您不可能在與ISP斷線(非您所能控制)前，與您的談話對象先說對不起，我等一下可能會被ISP斷線？

所以，當您使用iPhone在Internet上找人聊天時，想斷線或不想聊了，直接按選單上的切線即可，實在不必在那邊編一大堆連小孩子都不會相信的謊話。

因為，不管您是有意切線或無意切線，還是很不甘願的被ISP斷線，與您交談的對方根本就搞不清楚您是為什麼不見的？

所以，請停止編故事說謊話.....)當然，筆者並非叫您在談話過程中極盡粗魯之能事，而是告訴您不要掩耳盜鈴！

有與筆者談過的人(我經惘在上面出沒)都知道，我是非惘有禮貌的，除了幽默之外，也很樂意助人(受我幫助過者衆).....切記！講話要爬意禮貌哦？

- 3) 飲食男女

人類從青春來了之後，就會對異性充滿期待，幾乎沒有人不對異性有興趣(有性別認同問題者例外)。但由於禮教的約束，導致人類都用虛偽的外表來裝飾自己，不敢讓自己的那種對異性的渴望顯露在外？

所以，當男生看到女生時，男生會說您好漂亮(解除女生的心防)。基本

上，說漂亮是沒有錯，但對那種非惘遵守交通規則(只沒有任何值得誇讚的女生)的女生可能會造成反效果？

以下是筆者所模擬的一個狀況：

- M)小姐，您好漂亮哦！
- W)謝謝(可能惘被誇漂亮)
- W)少來了(對自己有自知之明，但是內心還是極爲喜悅)
- W)您也很帥呀(可能惘被誇漂亮，但懂得回誇別人)

根據科學家的研究發現，人類是最不適合一夫一妻制的？

因為：

- 1) 動物都有一定的發情期而人類隨時都可以來？
- 2) 人類是最喜新厭舊的動物(您不喜歡新東西嗎)？

所以，英明的人類祖先就訂下了一夫一妻制的法律，用來避免發生兩件事：

- 1) 男人太過操勞，壽命減短
  - 2) 女人因為爭風吃醋，而互相殘殺
- 筆者講了這麼許多，與iPhone有關嗎？當然有關.....)

因為不管您結婚與否，您對可以上iPhone來與完全陌生的對方，來一場轟轟烈烈的電話性行為，而且絕對合法且沒有後遺症？

所以，人類潛在的不忠實可以在Internet透過iPhone來完全發洩無遺！

根據筆者的經驗，有許多上iPhone的女生都把她們的第一次給了我.....)

不要誤會，這裡所指的第一次是指第一次用iPhone，而我又是她第一次的聊天對象。

如果您很討厭對方的講話內容，您可以不小心去按到斷線的按鍵，以避免彼此的爭論.....)

PS1.但請不要以聲音來論斷一個



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人，因為聲音不好聽，不代表就是壞人...;PS2.交談的第一句話，先學著稱讚對方的名字或聲音，會讓您受人歡迎!

#### 4) 如何釣魚

對於一個初用 iPhone 的人來說，不知道要找誰講話，應該是最惱遇到的問題?

而對於一個 iPhone 老手來講，如何找到一個新手來聊天，這也是蠻困難的事?

對於一個男生而言，如何找個女生來聊天(只是純聊天與性行為無關)，這應該是男生們所急於想知道的?

如果您是女生，您就不必擔心上 iPhone 找不到男生聊天了?因為滿坑滿谷都是男生....)

以下針對幾個不同需要，提供幾種方法讓讀者們參考：

#### (1) 找初學者

如果您要找初學者(第一次用)，要去那裡找呢?

很簡單!

在 iPhone 一安裝好後，會自動加入一個討論區，名字一定是 General?

而初學者根本就還不知道怎樣加入討論區?

就在初學者還在摸索怎麼加入討論區時，已經有人叫她了，那個人就是她(或是我遠在臺灣的徒弟)....;Q

#### (2) 找女生

要找女生的話，這得要有點天份....)

仔細看 NickName 就可以判斷出是否為女生?

但有些無聊男子由於太閒(沒有人要與他聊天)，所以會取女生的名字，用以吸引別人來叫他，讀者就自己看著辦囉!

茲提供幾個可能的名字供讀者參考：

- <1> Angel
- <2> Angella
- <3> Cherry
- <4> Ivy
- <5> Jessica
- <6> Juno
- <7> Julia
- <8> Juliette
- <9> Linda
- <A> Mary
- <B> May
- <C> Mary
- <D> Rebaca
- <E> Sanita
- <F> Snowwhite

#### 5) 如何避免釣錯魚

既然講 iPhone 有如在釣魚?那有沒有可能釣錯魚呢?當然會囉!

在 iPhone 的 Comment 欄位可以寫上一些簡單的敘述，這個敘述與交談者有很大的關係，仔細看是沒錯的?

在 iPhone 的一些特別的討論區是專給同性戀族群使用的，如果讀者非此族類，勿輕易加入(想探險者例外)。

也有些該族群會出來打游擊，萬一您遇上了，請善用斷線按鍵即可。

一般來講，在 Comment 處寫上自己年齡的人，都是別有用意的，如果您並非此道中人，最好不要隨便呼叫這類的網友。

當然，有許多顯而易見的 Comment，如：

- 1)我現在一絲不掛
- 2)我有大陽具
- 3)其他相關詞句

如果您想要有一場轟轟烈烈的 X 行為的話，不妨可以叫叫這類的網友，但該有的預防措施，請務必準備....)

### 三、結語

由於在 Internet 上太過自由了，所以在您使用 iPhone 時，要學著如何適時保護自己，不要因為科技的發達而造成個人的損壞才是?

基本上，在 Internet 上大部份的人都是很好的，所以讀者也不必被筆者嚇得不敢用 iPhone，搞不好錯失了一樁良緣呢?

如果您有任何批評指教，歡迎與筆者聯絡(jimlin@intergate.bc.ca)。

除了 iPhone 之外，還有其它許多的 InternetPhone 的程式，有興趣的讀者，可以直接連到筆者的 WebSite (<http://www.cads.com.tw>) 上來抓取。



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# 中文輸出 中文字庫 多國文字 彩色影像輸入 印前系統 彩色打樣 大型噴畫海報 中文輸入法

直接及全面支援任何中文  
檔案輸出

加西唯一擁有整套 52 款華康  
中文激光照排機字庫

能在同一檔案上同時輸出  
多種語文

高解像度激光  
滾筒式掃描機

加西唯一提供全線印前系統  
由軟/硬件及設備至輸出服務

最新熱昇華中文及多國文字  
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今日電腦桌上排版系統的  
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軟件硬件的完美配合，加  
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# 快達

Instant Solutions  
Tel: (604) 273-0383

## Demo: 中日文軟件商品示範週

Date / 日期: 1, 2, 7-9 / 3 月 (Mar. 1, 2, 7-9)  
地點: 八佰伴中心二樓 Yaohan Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> flr), Rmd

Show: Computer To Go  
Date: Mar. 15 (10-3pm)  
Place: Eagle Hall  
530 Columbia St.  
New Westminster

### Dragon Writer 圖龍軟件

3 Languages in 1 CD-ROM!  
Many New Powerful Features  
incl. Dragon Translator and 16 TT Fonts  
可提供整篇文件或一段句子翻譯  
直譯功能效果佳而使用方便  
更有學習中心幫忙學習中文字  
圖龍軟件內有十六種字體  
三種語言: 中、日、韓文

### Professional Interactive Chinese

多媒體自學中文軟件  
發音清楚且容易操作  
No Chinese Background Required!

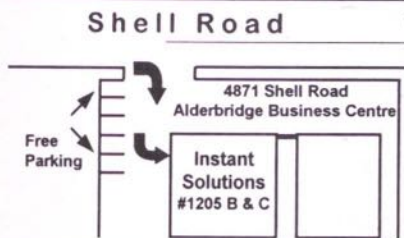
Professional Interactive Chinese comes with voice recognition, flash cards, games and many other features. Incorporates two years of Mandarin training taking you to the intermediate skill level.

多媒體自學中文比賽完結  
因缺乏參加者  
獎項將留待下一次  
PIC Contest is completed.  
Prize will be retained.

### Instant Solutions' Interactive Learning Lab

Learning Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, English and French can be as easy as 1-2-3.  
Multi-media learning lab available at your service.  
Leasing options available while attending classes.  
Many new exciting Asian Software Programs available!  
Come up to our Lab for a free demo and see for yourself.

周末照常示範請先來電預約



Alderbridge Way

### 快達多媒體自學教室

簡化學習外國語程序  
多種語言供選擇:  
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Cellular: 880-8699



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及送雙橋中、日文(實用版)

請電: 六零八一二六八八

廣告效力宏大

COMPUTER!  
PLAYER!

## 圖龍中日韓文視窗系統 系統功能簡介

## Asian Dragon Writer Powerful Features

### Dragon Manager 圖龍書寫管理器

- Chinese, Japanese, and Korean interface for Windows. You can read, write, and print all three Asian Language characters and symbols with any Windows Applications such as Word Processor, Database, Spread Sheets, Graphics, etc.
- 圖龍書寫管理器提供一個視窗上的中日韓文介面, 你可在任何視窗軟體內自由讀、寫、及 列印中日韓文。
- Provides wide varieties of input methods:

#### 中文輸入法 (Chinese):

拼音 注音 倉頡 內碼 粵語 符號 英譯  
Pin-Yin Zhu-Yin Chang-Jei Internal Code  
Cantonese Pin-Yin Symbols English to Chinese

#### 日文輸入法 (Japanese):

假名 羅馬拼音 內碼 英譯  
Kana-Kanji Roma-Kanji S-JIS Code  
English to Japanese

#### 韓文輸入法 (Korean):

鍵盤 內碼 英譯  
Hangul Keyboard KSC English to Korean  
Support Big 5 (13000+ Traditional Chinese characters), GB (7000+ Simplified Chinese), S-JIS, KSC, and Unicode.

支援大五碼、國標碼、日文及韓文標準內碼、  
支援繁簡中文字、日文漢字、及韓文漢字。

### Free Hand Writing Recognition Input For Traditional Chinese!

送超級筆手寫輸入法!



### True Type Fonts 字體

- Asian Dragon Writer provides 10 Traditional Chinese, 2 Simplified Chinese, 2 Japanese, and 2 Korean True Type fonts.
- 圖龍視窗系統內附有十種繁體中文, 兩種簡體中文, 兩種日文, 及兩種韓文真實字體。
- 字體可隨意放大縮小, 並可直排或橫排。

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	中楷	中明	中黑	中隸	細圓	線體
2	粗黑	粗宋	仿宋	細明	簡宋	簡黑
3	日本語フォント1			日本語フォント2		
4	한국인의원천1			한국인의원천2		
5	美國	30				
6	台灣	20				
7	日本	15				
8	中國	18				
9	韓國	12				
10	法國	25				
11	德國	27				

### Font Samples

#### Traditional Chinese (繁體)

中明 粗宋 線體 中隸 中黑  
M Ming L Song L ZongYi M Li M Hei  
中楷 粗黑 仿宋 細明 細圓  
M Kai L Hei M Song S Ming S Yuan

#### Simplified Chinese (簡體)

簡粗黑 簡中宋  
L Hei M Song

#### Japanese (日文)

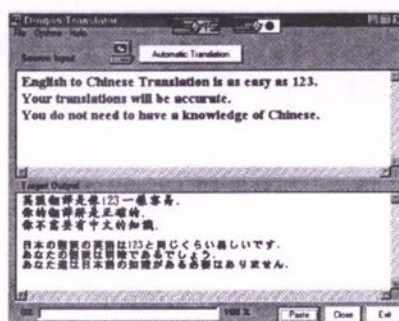
日本語フォント1 日本語フォント2  
Japanese Font #1 Japanese Font #2

#### Korean (韓文)

한국인의원천1 한국인의원천2  
Korean Font #1 Korean Font #2

### Dragon Translator 圖龍翻譯器

- Automatic Document Translation from English to Chinese. Dictionary Contains 150,000 phrases and words. Translate entire document or sentences inside of your favorite word processor.
- 專業英漢翻譯可翻譯整篇文件或一段文句, 可在任何文書處理器內直接翻譯。提供十五萬字英漢詞典, 翻譯效果準確。
- Automatic Document Translation from English to Japanese. Dictionary contains 100,000 phrases and words. Translate entire document or sentences inside of your favorite word processor.
- 專業英日翻譯可翻譯整篇文件或一段文句, 可在任何文書處理器內直接翻譯。提供十萬字英日詞典, 翻譯效果準確。
- Bi-directional Phrase Dictionaries for English-Chinese, English-Japanese and English-Korean are provided for easy translation of words and simple sentence. Each dictionary contains 70,000 words.
- 提供英漢、英日、及英韓雙向詞典, 可直接用於任何程式內進行簡易翻譯或查詢單字。每個詞典都有七萬多字。

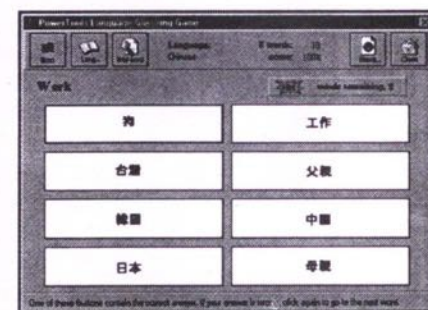


### Dragon Learning Center 學習中心

- 圖龍視窗系統附有兩個語言學習程式。書寫學習中心可讓你學習如何書寫兩萬多繁簡中文字, 日文平假, 片假, 漢字, 及韓文字。
- 單字學習中心幫助你記憶超過七萬多的中日韓單字。



- Write Learning center teaches you how to write over 20,000 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Symbols and Characters.



- Word Learning Center help you to memorize over 70,000 Words and phrases of each Asian Languages.

### Other Product 其它產品

Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, Greek, Hungarian, Latin, Polish, Romanian, Portuguese, Swahili, Turkish, Spanish, Italian French, German, Russian.

Information provided by Instant Solutions' Interactive Learning Lab  
For enquiry, please call 273-0383



# WINTER WHITE SALE

8:00 Kid's light on.

8:40 Bedroom light on.

9:30 Radio on.

7:55 Aptiva turns itself on.

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**IBM** Aptiva™

Buy any IBM Computer and don't pay for 6 months\* O.A.C. See store for details



## Home Automation.

Aptiva's Home Director lets you turn lights and appliances on and off automatically. So you can set up routines that give your house that lived-in look even when you're not home.

The Home Director Starter Kit is available on the Aptiva C3X. It includes instructions, software, one lamp module, one appliance module and one serial interface module (with cable).



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#### DEXTON COMPUTERS

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BURNABY • 604-433-9866

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## **Multimedia Monitor**

With speakers and a microphone built into the monitor, TheatreSound™ and a Wavetable Sound Card, your ears will be thrilled.

## **Hidden Tower**

The mini tower can be stored up to six feet away from your desktop.

## **Internet Connection Phone**

Lets you make phone calls to others over the Internet.<sup>1</sup>

## **Lots of Cool Software<sup>4</sup>**

Here's just a little of it: Lotus SmartSuite 96®, VR Soccer,™ MechWarrior 2® and Jungle Book. Plus tools to help get you up and running.

## **Service and Support**

IBM Online Housecall<sup>2</sup> and around-the-clock help. 2-year limited system board warranty.<sup>3</sup>

## **Total Image 3D™**

Aptiva S Series with built-in 3D graphics for mind-blowing gaming action.

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When not in use, the slim keyboard fits neatly under the monitor and out of the way.

## **"Pop-up" Media Console**

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Choose from 'S'uper Year, 'S'uper Sound, 'S'uper Warranty, 'S'uper Talk or 'S'uper Learning**

**Aptiva™**

**Buy any IBM Computer and don't pay for 6 months\* O.A.C. See store for details**

Cordless mouse on select models only.<sup>1</sup> Person you are calling must have the Internet Connection Phone software, plus sound card, speakers and microphone, but may use any Internet service provider. <sup>2</sup>Some fees may apply. <sup>3</sup>Aptiva system boards are covered for parts and labour during the first year. The next two years only system board parts are covered. Because some limitations may apply, check your sales manual or call 1-800-772-2227 to obtain a copy of IBM's limited warranty. <sup>4</sup>May differ from retail versions and may not include all documentation. IBM is a registered trademark and Aptiva, TheatreSound and Total Image 3D are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. All other company and/or product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. ©1996 IBM Corp. All rights reserved



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# NETLINK COMPUTERS

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Hours: M-F: 9:30AM to 6:30PM, Saturday: 10:00AM to 5:30PM

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## System 3 (PCI)

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Intel Pentium & Pentium Pro Processor-based Systems

P-120 Triton-VX \$1030	P-120 Triton-VX \$1433	P-120 Triton-HX \$1808
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<b>P-133 \$1070</b>	<b>P-133 \$1470</b>	<b>P-133 \$1848</b>
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P-150 Triton-VX \$1158	P-150 Triton-VX \$1558	P-150 Triton-HX \$1933
P-166 Triton-VX \$1303	P-166 Triton-VX \$1708	P-166 Triton-HX \$2082
MMX P-166 Triton-VX \$1443	MMX P-166 Triton-VX \$1848	MMX P-166 Triton-HX \$2218
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- 8MB 60ns EDO, 256K Burst Cache
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- 3.5" 1.44MB floppy disk drive
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- 14" Monitor N.I.L.R., 1024x768, .28 dp
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### Options:

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Full Internet Access  
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March '97  
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IOMEGA Zip Drive Parallel/SCSI \$255  
IOMEGA Jaz 1G Ext.PC/Mac \$638  
Panasonic 4X /Pioneer 12X CD-ROM \$78 /168  
ATI 3D Xpression+ PC2TV \$165  
2MB SDRAM exp. 4MB \$165  
OptiQuest V775 .26 1600x1200 \$858  
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(Notice: Please visit our web site or kingsway store for latest system price.)

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Shuttle Hot-557 Pentium 430VX 2 Dimms USB Ready	\$149
QDI Explorer-II/LuckyStar w/ EIDE, high speed IO	\$148
256K Pipeline Burst Cache, Triton-II chipset, Flash BIOS	
ASUS P/A-P55T2P4 w/ EIDE, high speed IO AT Style	\$199
512K Pipeline Burst Cache, Triton II 430HX, Flash BIOS	
ASUS P/A-P55TVP4 w/ EIDE, high speed IO	\$175
256K Pipeline Burst Cache, Triton II, Flash 430VX	
ASUS P/A-P55T2P4 w/ EIDE, high speed IO ATX	\$195
256K Pipeline Burst Cache, Triton II, Flash 430HX	
TYAN TOMCAT III Dual Pentium Socket 7	\$348
512K Pipeline Burst Cache, Triton II, Flash, 8 RAM slots	
Intel Mari w/ EIDE, high speed IO	\$178
256K Burst Cache, Triton, II 430HX, Flash ATX Style	
Intel Venus Pentium Pro w/ EIDE, high speed IO	\$348
256K Burst Cache, ATX Style AMI Flash BIOS	

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## AMD CPU Cyrix/IBM CPU

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Western Digital	1.6 GB	10ms	5200	128K	AC21600	\$278
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Western Digital	2.5 GB	10ms	5200	128K	AC32500	\$355
Western Digital	3.1 GB	10ms	5200	128K	AC33100	\$415

Quantum						
Quantum	2.1 GB	10ms	5400	128K	Fireball	\$328
Quantum	2.5 GB	10ms	5400	128K	Sirocco	\$355
Quantum	3.2 GB	10ms	5400	128K	Sirocco	\$385
Quantum	3.8 GB	10ms	5400	128K	Sirocco	\$429

Seagate						
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Seagate	1.28GB	10.5ms	5400	128K	ST51270A	\$255
Seagate	2.16GB	10ms	5400	256K	ST32140A	\$379

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Stylus Pro for PC & Mac	\$530
Photo PC Camera	\$589
HEWLETT PACKARD	
DeskJet 690C /820CX/870CX	428/548/688
LaserJet 5L 600dpi 1MB	\$545
LaserJet 5P /5MP 600dpi	\$1199/1389
LaserJet 5 /6MP 600dpi	\$1748/1230
ScanJet 4S Serial /SP /4C	\$278/538/1189

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SoundBlaster 16 PnP 3D	\$108
SoundBlaster 32 PnP OEM /Retail	\$128/178
SoundBlaster AWE64 PnP Full	\$249
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Acer 12X /Pioneer 12X EIDE	\$149/175
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IOMEGA SCSI PCI 32bit Controller 50pin H/D	\$128
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SCSI PCI Adaptec 2940 /2940W	\$248/318
SCSI PCI Adaptec 3940UW Multichannel	\$589

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BTC 104 Windows 95 Keyboard	\$22
Fujitsu 8725 /4725 /Focus 2001	\$38/59/48
Liteon Win95 Natural K.B. with TouchPad	\$85
Logitech 2B Mouse / 3B MouseMan	\$22/35
Logitech Bus/TrackMan Combo Marble	\$85/105
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17" /19" /24" ATX Tower case	\$118/155/168

## SOFTWARE

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MS Access V7.0 for Windows 95 Full /Up	\$389/138
MS NT Server 4.0 Full /Up	\$call
MS Exchange Server /w 5 Clients for NT 3.51	\$1238
MS Office PRO 97 for Win95 (OEM)	\$488
MS Plus 95 / Publisher 97	\$68/95
MS SQL Server 6.0 for NT Full /Up	\$1218/599

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Zip Drive 100MB SCSI /Para.	\$255/255
Jaz Drive 1G SCSI /Int.Ext.	\$499/628
IOMEGA Jaz PC 1GB Disk	\$125
Ditto Easy 2GB Int. /Ext.	\$195/256
Ditto Easy 3200 Int. Ext.	\$288/368
ISA Adaptec 1505 for SCSI Zip /PCI Jaz Jet SCSI	\$58/129
Jaz Traveller Parallel Port to SCSI for Jaz Ext. Drive	\$79
TAPE 3M 800MB /2.0GB /3.2GB	\$39/31/49

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SupraExpress 33.6 V.34 Voice/Fax Int. PNP	\$118
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ATI Video Boost 1 MB EDO /2MB EDO	\$89/108
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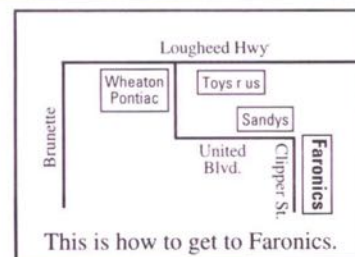
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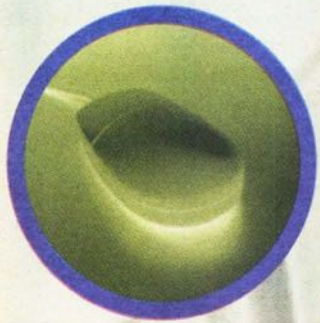
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